HELLO
AND SORRY FOR THE LOOOONG WAIT TO SEE THE CONCLUSION OF THIS SERIES.

SO ASAHI WANTED TO SEAL THE OMNIPOTENT POWERS AND
WELL....
IT'S KINDA IRONIC WHAT HAPPENS IN THE LAST FEW PAGES...

HOPE SOMEONE GET'S WHAT I'M REFERRING TO, SINCE I DON'T WANT TO SPOIL ANYTHING FOR ANYONE :)

AND SO...AFTER READING THIS VOLUME AGAIN FOR THE NTH TIME, I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE A LOT MORE OF HIRA AND SUIGEKKA'S LOVE STORY, LIKE HOW DID IT BLOSSOM AND HOW LONG DID IT LAST? DON'T YOU?

ON OTHER NEWS, THIS VOLUME WAS A PAIN TO CLEAN...TOO MUCH USE OF THE CLONE STAMP TOOL AND IT DOESN'T LOOK ALL THAT GREAT, BUT PATIENCE IS NOT REALLY A VIRTUE OF MINE TO GO IN THERE AND CLONE PIXEL BY PIXEL, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE MY LESS THAN STELLAR EDITING.

BTW, IF ANYONE WANTS TO RE-REALEASE THIS SERIES IN A HIGHER QUALITY, I DON'T MIND.

AND NOW I HAVE REACHED THE END OF THIS VOLUME AND THIS SERIES.

HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS SERIES AS MUCH AS I DID, I THINK THAT I LIKE THIS SERIES POSSIBLY MORE THAN FRUITS BASKET.

-CATANDMOUSE

花とゆめCOMICS

Phantom Dream

Natsuki Takaya 5

9784592127703

ISBN4-592-12770-6

C9979 ¥390E

1929979003906

定価410円 本体390円

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花とゆめ COMICS

幻影夢想〔5〕

高屋奈月

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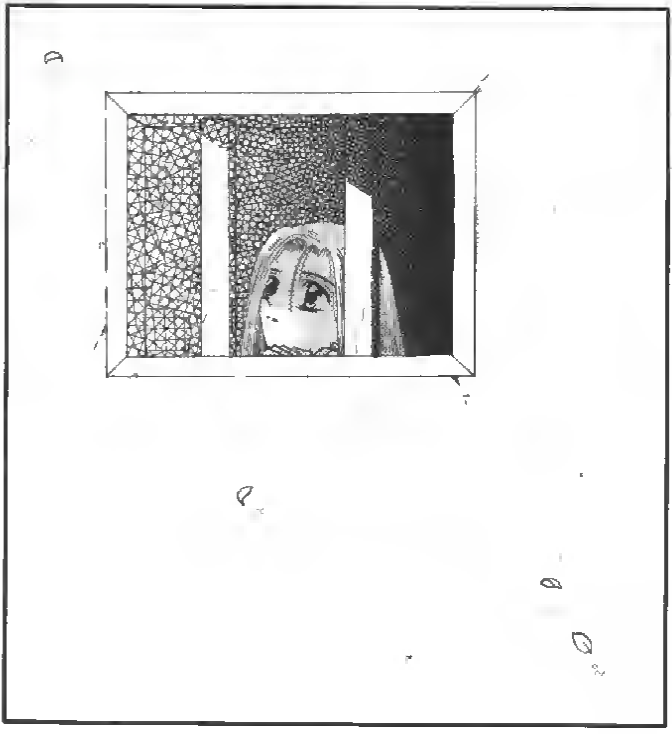
花とゆめCOMICS

幻影夢想

第5巻

高屋奈月

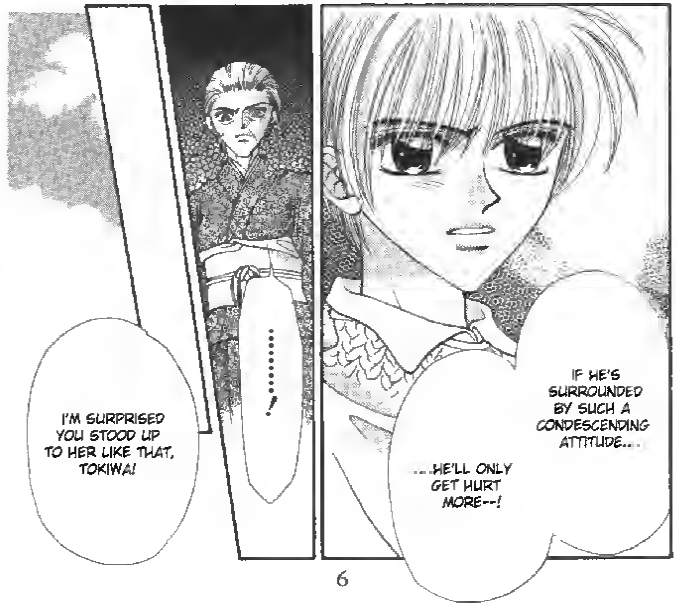


"THE MOON HEARD MY THOUGHTS..."
"...IN SILENCE."
幻影夢想
"WHEN I SPOKE TO THE MOON..."
"HIRA-SAMA, I CAN'T FORGIVE YOUR LADY MOTHER.!"
"LOCKING YOU IN THAT ROOM FOR 10 YEARS, CUT OFF FROM THE WORLD..."
"HOW COULD SHE..?"
"I WOULD OFTEN TALK TO THE MOON."
"...FOR A MOMENT, IT FELT AS IF I'D BEEN SAVED."

幻影夢想
げんえいむそう

IT SEEMED AS IF THE ANCIENT ENMITY BETWEEN THE OTOYA AND GEKKA FAMILIES...
MIGHT BE NEARING THE END
ASAHI HERSELF DESCENDED TO THE SANCTUARY WITH HIRA'S SON AND TAKU
HIRA, THE KING OF THE GEKKA FAMILY...
...LIES ON THE VERGE OF DEATH AFTER BEING ATTACKED BY ASAHI, THE REINCARNATION OF SUIGEKKA
...I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT WE WERE UNDER THE BELIEF THAT WE WERE WORKING IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE OTOYA FAMILY
WE, THE BRANCH FAMILIES HAVE BEEN UNFAIR TO TAMAKI-DONO IN THE PAST, BUT...

I DON'T THINK YOU ARE REALLY UNDERSTANDING ALL THAT NII-SAMA HAS SILENTLY ENDURED JUST TO GET THIS FAR
I WOULD NEVER BRING HIM HERE
MY LADY GRANDMOTHER!
I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE HIM TO STAY WITH US UNTIL THE CONSTRUCTION AT THE MAIN TEMPLE IS DONE, IN RETRIBUTION FOR ALL HIS TROUBLES...


I'M SURPRISED YOU STOOD UP TO HER LIKE THAT, TOKIWA!
.....!
...HE'LL ONLY GET HURT MORE--!
IF HE'S SURROUNDED BY SUCH A CONDESCENDING ATTITUDE...

THERE ARE NO MORE JAKI, BUT..
WHAT ABOUT YOU, NII-SAMA..?
...WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT HIRA IS REALLY DEAD
I DIDN'T REALLY DO ANYTHING, EITHER
I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING BEFORE, SO...
...I WANT TO DO WHAT I CAN NOW
...MAKE SURE, TOO
I'M GOING TO....
.....
I'M FINE

HE'S LIKE A GHOST...
CONTINUING TO LIVE AFTER SOMEONE YOU LOVE SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR YOU...
...HURTS SO MUCH THAT YOU WANT TO DIE, BECAUSE YOU CAN'T FORGIVE YOURSELF FOR BEING ALIVE WHEN THEY ARE NIOT
TAMAKI-SAN...
WHAT TAMAKI WANTS RIGHT NOW, MORE THAN ANYTHING.....
...IS TO BE PUNISHED
BUT YOU CAN'T DIE BECAUSE THEY SACRIFICED THEMSELVES SO YOU COULD LIVE, SO THAT MAKES THE GUIIILT WORSE
THAT'S HOW I FELT WHEN KAGEHA DIED

"IT WAS ALL MY-- SUIGEKKA'S-- FAULT.."
"... SO THESE 'OMNIPOTENT' POWERS SHOULD BE SEALED AWAY FOREVER...!"
IT'S LIKE...
"WON'T SOMEONE... ANYONE..."
Kyu!
GOHOU...
"...PLEASE BRING DOWN GOD'S WRATH ON ME?"
DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE...
WHEN DID YOU COME OUT...?

THIS IS NOT OVER YET
!?
Y-YOU CAN... TALK?!
I CAN--THIS IS PROVE THAT YOUR POWERS CONTINUE TO GROW
AND...
ONLY YOU AND SOUETSU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE THIS LEVEL OF POWER
I AM SAGA
...THANKS TO THAT YOU HAVE FINALLY RESTORED ME TO MY TRUE FORM
I HAVE LIVED BESIDE EACH SHUGOSHI, BOUND TO THEM BY BLOOD

...HAS BEEN SAGA...
...ALL ALONG...?
WHY... WHY DID YOU..?
A THOUSAND YEARS AGO, I LEFT HIRA, WHO HAD GONE INSANE FROM GRIEF
I TOOK THE SHAPE OF THE GOHOU...
THAT WAS... THE BEGINNING
.....
TAMAKI...THIS MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO HEAR, BUT I HAVE TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING
...AND THROUGH IT I HAVE OPPOSED MY BROTHER...
...FOR ALL THESE YEARS
MY OTHER SELF
THE BEING THAT HAS BEEN BY MY SIDE...
..YOU...?
USING A SECRET ART I HAD LEARNED FROM SUIGEKKA, I BOUND MY EXISTANCE TO MY SON'S BLOOD...
...IN ORDER TO LEAVE MY POWER WITH HIM

IT IS PROBABLE THAT HIRA WILL COME BACK TO LIFE ONCE AGAIN
ATTEMPTING TO KEEP HIRA'S KON AND HAKU TRAPPED HERE IS FUTILE
IT WILL EVENTUALLY ESCAPE AND HIRA WILL BE RESURRECTED
IT GROWS STRONGER EVERY DAY

ALL BECAUSE I DIDN'T...
...DEFEAT HIRA
...TAMAKI-CHAN WON'T BE SAVED AFTER ALL
AND I'M ONLY MAKING HIM SUFFER MORE, HUH?
EVEN IF THEY END UP DYING, IT MAY JUST BE THAT THEY HAVE TO SETTLE THINGS ON THEIR OWN
THAT IS THE WAY THINGS ARE
IF THEY CANNOT FIND THE ANSWER WITHIN THEMSELVES, BOTH HIRA AND THE SHUGOSHI WILL CONTINUE TO SUFFER

!!
!
IT IS RETURNING TO ITS BODY YOU CANNOT DO ANYTHING TO STOP IT
THAT... THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN REALLY SAVE HIRA...
... IS TAMAKI-CHAN
I GUESS...
...I FELT THAT TOO
.....

TAMAKI-CHAN...
TAMAKI-CHAN LOOKS SO STERN...
...BUT HE'S A GOOD LISTENER
HE REALLY LISTENS TO OTHER PEOPLE'S HEARTS
BUT..
BUT..
...I DON'T WANT HIM TO DIE...!
!!

KING HIRA'S JAKI..!
KING HIRA?!
WHERE IS...
...THE SHUGOSHI ...?
I ASKED YOU WHERE HE IS
WELL.. AT THE MOMENT--
YOU HAVE RE-AWAKENED...
.....

YOU REALLY ARE USELESS ARE YOU NOT
..MUTSU?
"GOOD JOB"
"..SAMA!"
"HIRA-SAMA!"
P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME..
I WILL FIND HIM AT ONCE
"I'VE FINISHED READING ALL THE BOOKS YOU ASSIGNED ME!"
"IS THAT SO? YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD, MUTSU"

HIRA...
...HAS BEEN RESURRECTED...?
I SENSE THAT HE HAS LOST ALL SENSE OF LOVE....
...AND HIS JARYOKU HAS GROWN TO FILL THAT VOID
...ASAHI...
THEN...
.....
THE SHUGOSHI, SUIGEKKA.., EVERYONE...
...DISGUSTING?
EVERYTHING--- EVERYTHING IS DISGUSTING!
...A DEMON? IS IT TRUE?
HAVE I REALLY BECOME A BLOOD THIRSTY DEMON?
HAVE I....

THEN ASAHI DIED--!
DEATH MY BE THE ONLY THING THAT AWAITS YOU, THE ONE WHO ONCE FELLED HIRA...
...AND DEATH IS WHAT AWAITS HIRA, WHO HAS BECOME STRONGER, AND YET--
TAMAKI...I WISH THAT YOU CAN SOMEHOW SAVE HIRA
.....
I DON'T MIND...
.....
I WANT TO BE...
...PUNISHED...
DYING, YOU KNOW...

IF I CAN ERASE MY EXISTANCE, MAYBE I CAN MAKE UP FOR ...THAT...
FOR KEEPING ON LIVING WHEN ASAHI DID NOT
THERE IS NO WAY I CAN FORGIVE MYSELF...
YOU WANT ME TO SAVE HIM...
.. INSTEAD OF ATTACKING HIM...?
TAKE THIS
TAMAKI..
WHAT PART OF HIM AM I SUPPOSED TO SAVE? I DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM!
THE ONLY THING I KNOW IS THAT HE HATES HUMANS--!
.....
...THE .. DEMON SWORD?

It's all very sudden, but it was like seeing Saga and Hira as a retainer and his lord.

"Saga's scenes w/ Roka were so touching!"

"That smile sure fooled me."

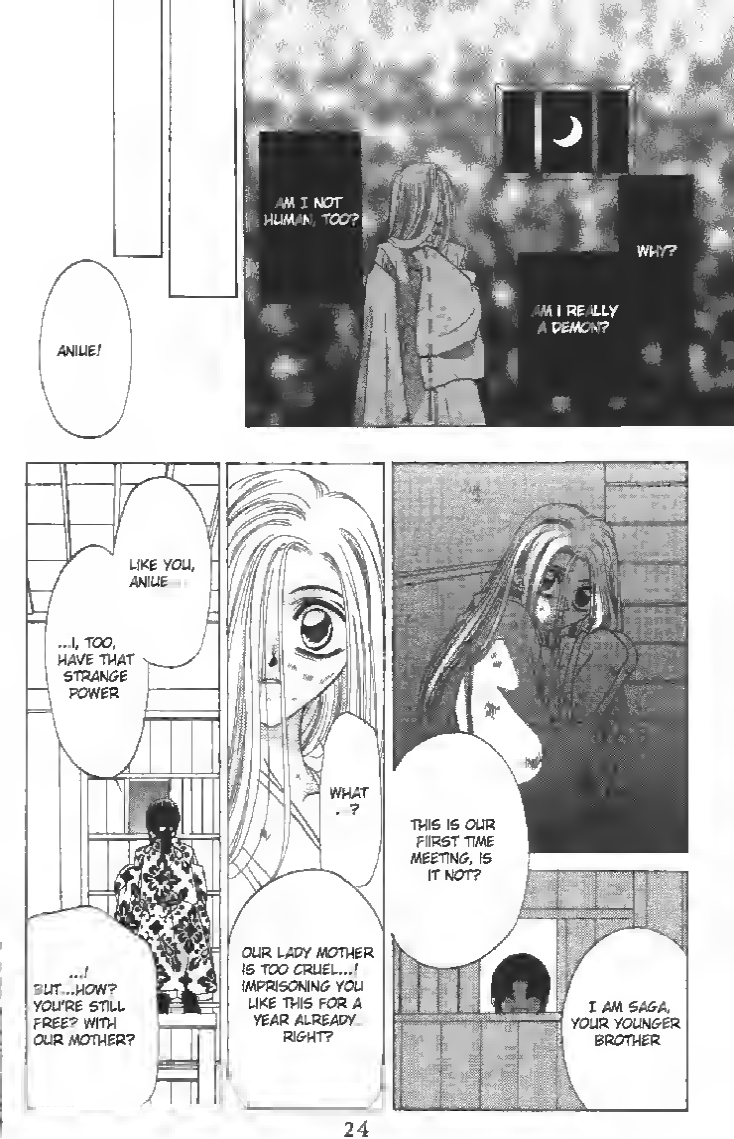
I heard a lot of things like that. Well, setting aside there's definately a reason why Saga's the way he is. He was afraid when he found out his brother had been locked up—after all, even though he had black hair and eyes, he had the same power. His mother and the people around him wanted him to be different from Hira—not a demon!— and if he betrayed their expectations, he'd be forced to live a solitary life like his brother. Since he was afraid of that, he worried about how people saw him and he chose his words and smiles carefully. If you think about it in terms of Eve, maybe those were his secret ways of surviving?

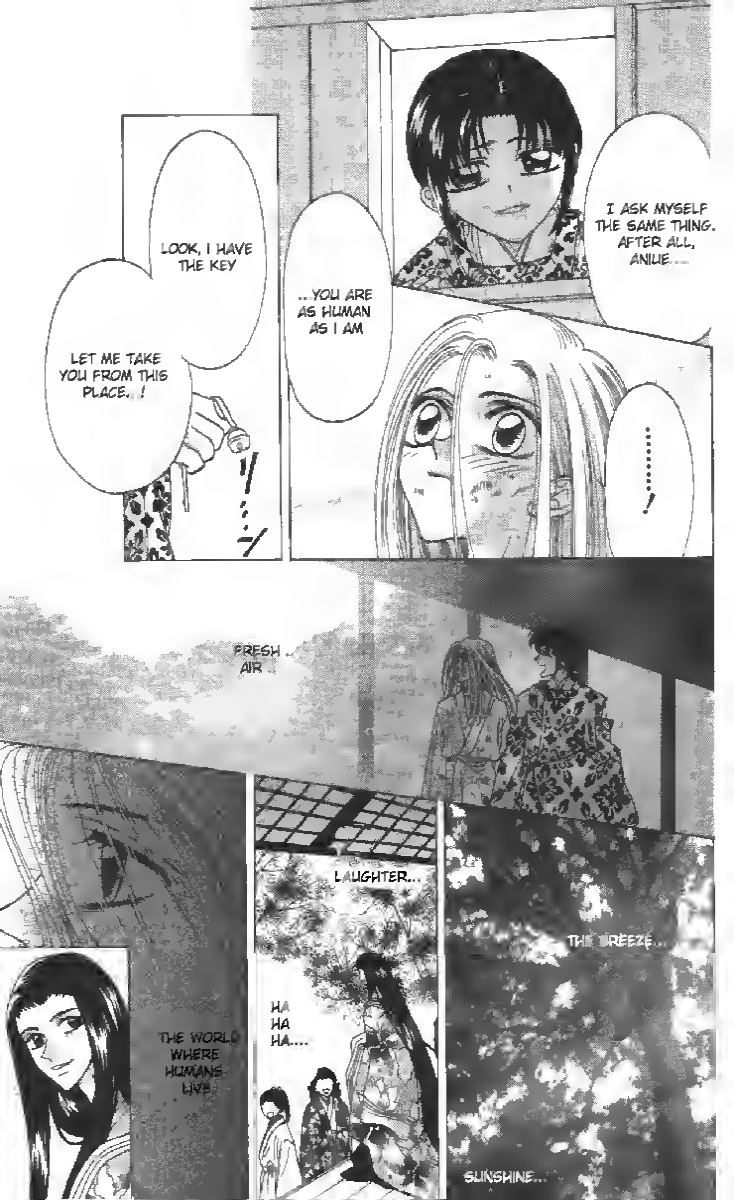
TBC in Scroll 3

WILL YOU NOT TOUCH HIRA ONCE MORE?
ROKA ENTRUSTED IT TO ME
IT CONTAINS HIRA'S MEMORIES, AS YOU ALREADY KNOW FROM YOUR PREVIOUS GLIMPSES OF HIS PAST
HIRA'S..
..MEMORIES
HIRA'S ..
.. SOUL

HIRA-SAMA USED HIS STRANGE POWERS AGAIN...!
HIRA-SAMA--!
HOW AWFUL...
EEEEEEK!
QUIET! YOU ARE NO CHILD OF MINE!
ONLY A DEMON HAS SUCH POWERS AND WHITE HAIR AND RED EYES
I DID NOT DO ANYTHING MY LADY MOTHER!
THIS POWER-- IT ACTED ALL ON ITS OWN!
YOU'RE A DEMON!

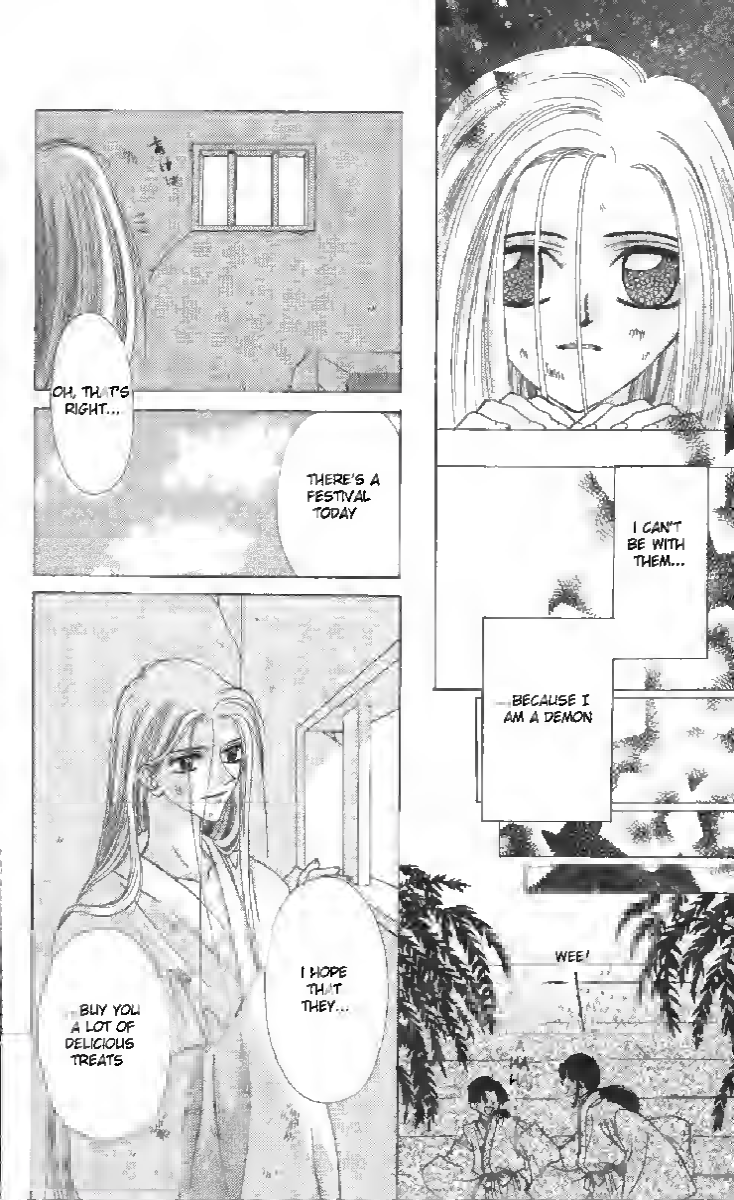
I'LL BE GOOD...
I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL SO THAT MY STRANGE POWER DOESN'T COME OUT, SO MOTHER...
SOMEONE LOCK THAT DEMON AWAY!!
...PLEASE, PLEASE LET ME OUT...
HIRA...
I WILL NOT GO AS FAR AS MURDERING YOU, BUT...
...YOU WILL REMAIN HERE UNTIL THE DAY YOU DIE...
MY LADY MOTHER?!
...LOCKED AWAY WHERE NO ONE CAN SEE YOU


ANILIE!
AM I NOT HUMAN, TOO?
WHY?
AM I REALLY A DEMON?
LIKE YOU, ANILIE...
...I, TOO, HAVE THAT STRANGE POWER
...! BUT...HOW? YOU'RE STILL FREE? WITH OUR MOTHER?
WHAT...?
OUR LADY MOTHER IS TOO CRUEL...! IMPRISONING YOU LIKE THIS FOR A YEAR ALREADY, RIGHT?
THIS IS OUR FIRST TIME MEETING, IS IT NOT?
I AM SAGA, YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER


I ASK MYSELF THE SAME THING. AFTER ALL, ANILIE....
..YOU ARE AS HUMAN AS I AM
LOOK, I HAVE THE KEY
LET ME TAKE YOU FROM THIS PLACE. !
!!
.....!
FRESH .. AIR ..
LAUGHTER...
THE BREEZE...
HA HA HA....
THE WORLD WHERE HUMANS LIVE
SUNSHINE...

EEEK!
A DEMON! THE DEMON IS OUT...!
SOMEONE CALL A GUARD, QUICK--!
SO CRUEL...
IT'S TOO MUCH
SAGA-SAMA GET AWAY FROM THAT THING! ITS SPIRIT MIGHT POSSESS YOU!
LEAVE THIS PLACE!

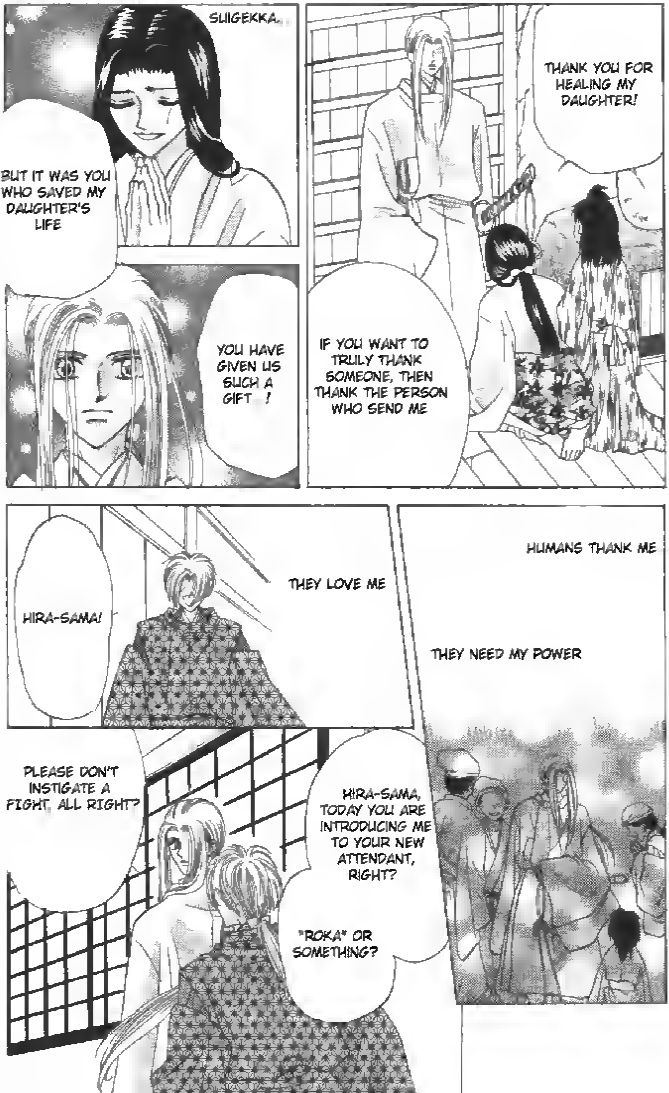
SO...
...WHAT'S MAKES SOMEONE A "HUMAN"?
EVERYONE IS AFRAID OF ME BECAUSE I AM THIS UGLY THING
THESE DOUBLE LOCKS WILL PREVENT YOU FROM ESCAPING EVER AGAIN
I GUESS I AM A DEMON, AFTER ALL
THEIR HEARTS MUST BE BEAUTIFUL AND FULL OF LOVE AND WARMTH
IS IT THEIR SHINY BLACK HAIR AND EYES...?
...BUT NO, IT MUST BE SOMETHING ELSE
...AND LAUGHTER AND HAPPINESS
THAT MUST BE WHY THEY ARE ALLOWED TO HAVE LIGHT...


OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
THERE'S A FESTIVAL TODAY
I HOPE THAT THEY...
BUY YOU A LOT OF DELICIOUS TREATS
I CAN'T BE WITH THEM...
BECAUSE I AM A DEMON
WEE!
HA HA

SUIGEKKA-SAMA HAS SUMMONED YOU
YOU'RE FREE NOW
SUI-GEKKA...?
SUI-GEKK...
YOU ARE NOW A FREE MAN
FOR 15 YEARS...
YOU QUIETLY ENDURED YOUR UNJUST IMPRISONMENT AT THE HANDS OF YOUR MOTHER
...THE ONE PEOPLE SAY IS OMNIPOTENT?

HOW...DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT ME?
YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER,SAGA,, TOLD ME ABOUT YOU
SHE IS..
..A YOUNG GIRL
HIRA..
...IT SEEMS THAT YOU HAVE SPECIAL POWERS, JUST LIKE YOUR BROTHER, SAGA
WOULD YOU LEND ME YOUR POWERS...
..TO HELP ME PROTECT HUMANITY?

THEREFORE SHE NEEDS ATTENDANTS TO HELP HER ACHIEVE HER GOAL OF PROTECTING HUMANITY
PROTECT HUMANITY..?
SUIGEKKA-SAMA IS VERY REVERED FIGURE THUS ONLY A CERTAIN FEW KNOW OF HER EXISTANCE
ME..?
PROTECT..?
AND MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE
OHH..
THANK YOU...!
BUT IT MAKES ME HAPPY THAT SHE SPEAKS TO ME NOW
HO HO HO..
SUCH AN HONOR SHE IS GIVING YOU, RIGHT?
YOU AND SAGA, MY CHILDREN, ARE MY PRIDE AND JOY
MY LADY MOTHER'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS ME HAS COMPLETELY CHANGED


SUIGEKKA.
BUT IT WAS YOU WHO SAVED MY DAUGHTER'S LIFE
YOU HAVE GIVEN US SUCH A GIFT !
THANK YOU FOR HEALING MY DAUGHTER!
IF YOU WANT TO TRULY THANK SOMEONE, THEN THANK THE PERSON WHO SEND ME
HUMANS THANK ME
THEY NEED MY POWER
THEY LOVE ME
HIRA-SAMA!
PLEASE DON'T INSTIGATE A FIGHT, ALL RIGHT?
HIRA-SAMA, TODAY YOU ARE INTRODUCING ME TO YOUR NEW ATTENDANT, RIGHT?
"ROKA" OR SOMETHING?

...AND LEAD ME TO WHERE HUMANS ARE
THEY...
...ACCEPT ME...
I CANNOT MAKE ANY PROMISES!
DON'T FORGET THAT I AM YOU! NUMBER ONE APPRENTICE...!
I CAN HAVE THIS HAPPINESS, THANKS TO SUIGEKKA'S GRACE
SHE SET ME FREE
IT IS ALL BECAUSE OF HER--THIS HIGHLY REVERED GIRL

Suigekka-sama. She...!
DESPITE EVERYTHING...
BUT DESPITE EVERY-THING
HIRA-SAMA...!
...AMONG THE HUMANS THAT ARE SO LIVELY
THIS POWER OF MINE...
...EXISTS TO PROTECT SUIGEKKA AND ALL OF HUMANITY
SHE IS THE RE... I CAN LIV...
...HUMANS MURDERED SUIGEKKA

THEY MURDER EACH OTHER
AND THEY DON'T... EVEN HAVE THE EXCUSE OF BEING DEMONS
THEY FIGHT WITH STRANGERS OVER INSIGNIFICANT THINGS
THEY EASILY FORGET THE KINDNESS GIVEN TO THEM AND BETRAY EACH OTHER IN A HEART BEAT
THAT MAN-- HE'S A MURDERER!
THAT'S NOT IT! WHITE HAIR AND RED EYES DENOTE A DEMON...!
DEMON!!!
I DON'T MIND... BEING A DEMON...
You old bag--!
What are you saying?! You agreed with us!
I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
IT'S THEIR OWN FAULT FOR HAVING THOSE POWERS!
Aaa!
H-help me...!
I had nothing to do with it! The village's young ones were the ones that started talking about killing her!

NEVER...
I...
...HAVE HURT HIRA..
...VERY BADLY WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING
I would much rather be a demon....
...THAN A WRETCHED HUMAN LIKE YOU...!
TAMAKI...
I WILL NEVER...
...FORGIVE YOU

!?
TAMAKI, PLEASE... HIRA...
...WHAT DID YOU FEEL...?
DON'T KNOW...
.....
PLEASE SAVE MY BROTHER
I WAS WRONG
HIRA, FOR YOU, MORE THAN ANYTHING...
"THE ONLY THING I KNOW IS THAT HE HATES HUMANS."
THAT'S A LIE

..HUMANITY IS...
WHO WAS THE JACKASS
..WHO MADE A HUGE HOLE IN SOMEBODY ELSE'S PROPERTY?!

THAT OLD LADY WAS JUST SO TALKATIVE
I FORCED MY WAY THROUGH YOUR BRANCH FAMILY'S PROTECTIVE BARRIER AND ASKED FOR DIRECTIONS
IT WAS YOU, HUH? GO FIGURE
HOW'D YOU FIND US? AND WHY DO LOOK WORSE FOR WEAR?

ANIUE...!
STAY BACK
THAT OLD HAG, RUNNING HER MOUTH LIKE THAT...!
I'M GONNA SMACK HER
ARE YOU STUPID? WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE ANYWAY? SURELY IS NOT TO SAY THAT HIRA IS STILL ALIVE...?
TELL ME, WHERE IS THE SHUGOSHI HIDING?
CALL HIM OUT
IT'S TOO BAD, BUT...
...IT SEEMS THE SHUGOSHI STILL HAS SOME WORK TO DO
KING HIRA HAS BEEN RESSURECTED
THAT'S THE TRUTH

BULLSHIT..!
THE KING WILL NOT DIE! HE WILL TAKE HIS REVENGE ON HUMANITY--!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
HIRA'S SOUL..
...HAS BEEN CORRODED BY HATRED!
MUTSU...!

SHUGOSH!
I WILL KILL YOU!
TCH
WHY ARE YOU HERE, YOU IDIOT?!
!
...WHY?
OI, COME ON!
THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR STUPID QUESTIONS! STAY OUT OF IT!
HENCE THE REASON WHY!!
HIDERI!
YOU SEE .
...HIDERI...

...VERY KIND
KING HIRATOK ME IN AFTER I HAD BEEN THROWN AWAY LIKE YESTERDAY'S TRASH
HE RAISED ME AND TREATED ME WELL
IN REALITY
...LIKE...
...YOU...
...HE IS...

MUTSU...
IF I.. HAD BEEN ABLE...
...TO TOUCH THE KING'S HEART...
...WOULD THINGS HAVE TURNED OUT... DIFFERENTLY...?
LET'S RETURN
.....?
...JUST ABOUT...
...TO DIE
HE IS...

TAMAKI... HIRA IS--
I KNOW
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO GO SEE HIM
MUTSU...
...LET'S RETURN TO HIRA
I WANT TO MEET UP WITH HIM BECAUSE....
...I WANT TO TELL HIM SOMETHING
.....

HH
.....
HIRA...
SO MANY ABHORRENT BEINGS...
I SHALL ELIMINATE ALL OF THEM !
!!
ALL GOING ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS
SHICHIBOUJIN!

THIS SWORD...
...SHOWED ME A GLIMPSE OF YOUR CHILDHOOD
THE... DEMON SWORD?
I CAN NO LONGER REMEMBER SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED SO LONG AGO
CHILDHOOD ...?
"OUR KING LOVED SUIGEKKA-SAMA!"
"HE WAS DEVASTATED BY HER DEATH! THIS IS NOT HIRA-SAMA...!!"
"MUTSU...! THIS IS NO LONGER THE KING WE ONCE KNEW...!"
.....
!
HE...

"THE PASSAGE OF ENOUGH TIME DRIVES PEOPLE INSANE."
I AM...
...A DEMON...!!
!
...TO CURSE HUMANITY...
YOU ARE THE SAME...!
"THEY LOSE SIGHT OF WHAT THEIR SOUL SHOULD BE."
I AM A DEMON...
...BORN TO HATE AND KILL HUMANS...
...TO HATE THE WORLD--!

HIRA, YOU...
TAMAKI--?!
FOOL..
COMING NEAR ME OF YOUR OWN VOLITION...!
HIRA!
DIE...!!!
...WANTED...
..TO BE HUMAN, DIDN'T YOU...?
Y-YOU..

THAT WORLD FULL OF PEOPLE...
IT OVERWHELMED YOU
ABOVE ALL...
HUMANS...
YOU LOVED THEM YOU WANTED TO BE A PART OF THEIR WORLD
...YOU...
...LOVED THEM...

WH...
"THEIR HEARTS MUST BE BEAUTIFUL"
"...AND FULL OF LOVE AND WARMTH"
I... HUMANS... I'VE NEVER...
WHEN...
STOP SAYING... SUCH FOOLISH THINGS
BE QUIET
"THIS POWER...."
"...EXISTS TO PROTECT SUIGEKKA AND ALL OF HUMANITY"
MAYBE YOUR DEEP HATE FOR HUMANS...
...STEMS FROM THE FACT THAT YOU LOVED THEM?
STOP IT

!
ヴィヤ
MY KING!
THE DEMON WILL BREAK...!
HUMANS--
STOP
STOP!!!
HHH
.....!!

TURN ALL YOUR HATRED TOWARDS ME...
...INSTEAD OF TAKING IT OUT ON HUMANITY
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR RESPONSE...
...HIRA
I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU THAT AND TO RETURN THE DEMON SWORD TO YOU
BUT RIGHT NOW, YOU SHOULD PROPERLY GRIEVE FOR MUTSU
SOMEWHERE
LET'S HAVE ANOTHER FIGHT...
...SOMEDAY
.....

MY KING...
ARE YOU...
ミシッ
I WON'T LOSE...
...NEXT TIME
...ALL RIGHT...?
BECAUSE I'M...
...YOUR... NUMBER-ONE APPRENTICE...
SO THAT I MAY CONTINUE TO BE PUNISHED
...DESPITE YOUR INJURIES?
DO YOU... STILL INTEND TO OBEY ME...

I LOVE NOTHING!
I GRIEVE NOTHING...!
MY KING...?
.....
STOP THAT...
.....
//
I HAVE NO HOPES OR DREAMS...
HUMANS... EVEN MUTSU...
IT WAS EASIER TO HATE IT ALL
...WAS AFRAID...
I...
I....
...I WON'T BE BETRAYED AGAIN

MY... KING?
IN REALITY...
...THEY WERE VERY DEAR TO ME
SUCH REALIZATIONS... CHANGE NOTHING
I HAVE RETURNED TO STAND AS THE KING OF THE GEKKA ONCE MORE
AND... EVEN THOUGH THERE IS NOWHERE FOR ME TO GO, I CANNOT TURN BACK
MY KING...?!
BUT AS FOR YOU...
...IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU TO FINALLY BE FREE OF ME
...OF LOVING HUMANITY...
...AND BEING HURT AGAIN
I WAS AFRAID

PLEASE FORGIVE ME
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, REALLY..
.....
"WELL DONE"
HIRA...
...SAMA...!
"WELL DONE."
HIRA-SAMA...!
MY KING...
HIRA-SAMA...

PLEASE DON'T SAY...
...THAT YOU HAVE NO PLACE TO RETURN TO...
...WHO MEANS THE WORLD TO ME...
HE MAY VERY WELL BE...
...YOUR MOON NOW, HIRA-SAMA...
THE SHUGOSHI... IS WAITING FOR YOU
"...HEARD MY THOUGHTS IN SILENCE"
.....!
"WHEN I DID THAT..."
"THE MOON..."

"...FOR A MOMENT I FELT LIKE I'VE BEEN SAVED"
"I'LL BE WAITING"
"I'LL BE..."
"...WAITING FOR YOU..."
"...HIRA"

THAT'S... PROBABLY NOT EVEN THE ISSUE
IF WE LET HIM GO BY HIMSELF, WON'T HE DIE JUST LIKE MUTSU DID...?
BUT THAT'S...
GOING AFTER HIRA BY HIMSELF, IT'S...
THEY ARE DRAWN TO EACH OTHER
SO, I GUESS THIS...
...IS IT, HUH?
MAYBE THEIR SOULS ARE GUIDING ONE ANOTHER OR SOMETHING...
BUT I CAN'T REALLY SAY

ARE YOU REALLY OK WITH THIS ?
EVEN IF YOU DIE ..
TAMAKI.
THIS IS .. MY PUNISHMENT
I'M DOING IT...
..BECAUSE I'M DRAWN TO HIM
BUT REALLY, I'M NOT FIGHTING HIRA BECAUSE I'M ON A SUICIDE MISSION

...WILL ASAHI CRY?
IF I DIE...
.....
BUT EVEN IF I DON'T DIE...
...WE'LL NEVER BE TOGETHER AGAIN.
BUT...
...MY HEART...
IT MAY ONLY BE MY HEART, BUT...
....I BELIEVE IT WILL GO TO YOU

...THAT TORMENT...
...AND THAT LONELINESS
PLEASE...
...LET ME END...
...UNTIL IT BROKE HIS HEART
THAT KIND DEMON WHO LOVED HUMANITY...

幻影の夢想
げんえいむそう

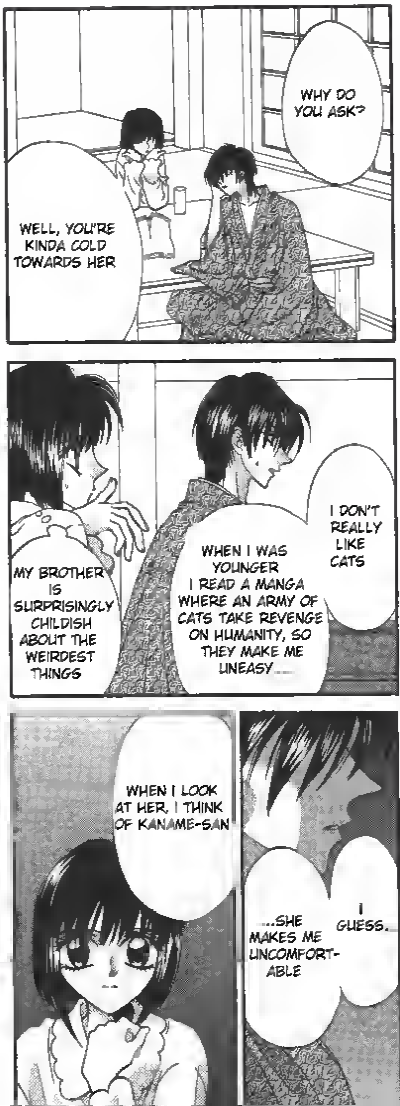
ULTRA SPECIAL THINGS THAT DON'T MATTER

The more I draw Eiji, the more suggestions I get for her- many people that started reading in the middle tell me things like ,"Have Tamaki end up with Eiji instead of Asahi!" But, Asahi has always been the only one for Tamaki. I don't know why, but I really like it—secretly thinking about which characters are really going to end up together

TAMAKI-SAN...!
I GUESS IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR
WHEN YOU GO TO HIRA...
...PLEASE TAKE ME WITH YOU...!
TAMAKI PLANS TO END THE FIGHT WITH HIRA ONCE AND FOR ALL...
I ALREADY TOLD YOU NO
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN
BUT I'M A HIGOSHI--!!
...EVEN THOUGH HIS STILL REELING OVER ASAHI'S LOST

THIS PLACE IS LOOKING MORE AND MORE LIKE A CAT SHELTER
TSUKI WORRIES ABOUT MY WELL-BEING, EVEN TF I AM USELESS TO HIM
I'M JUST BRINGING HIM DOWN,REALLY.
I,WHO WAS ONCE THE JAHOUTSUKAI OF THE GEKKA FAMILY...
...I'M NOW AN ORDINARY HUMAN WITH NO JARYOKU
SOON ENOUGH, THEY'LL BE RUNNING THIS PLACE
STOP IT ALREADY, KIDDO

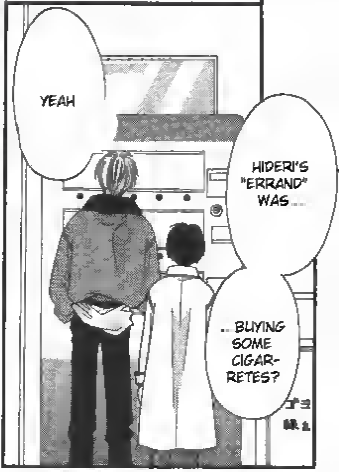
I'M SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING
.....
OH--THAT CAT YOU WERE ALWAYS WITH
I SEE
KAGEHA?
KAGEHA... MAY BE REINCARNATED SOMETIME
THE JAHOUTSUKAI WHO GAVE BIRTH TO ME
HIS ROUGH DEMEANOR REMINDS ME A LITTLE BIT OF HYOU
IT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES OF HER CONSTANT ABUSE
...BECAUSE OF MY WEAKNESS
HIDERI...
...ES ME UNCOMPORTABLE


A PART OF ME...
...WAS ALWAYS DEPRESSED AND HURT ABOUT IT
ANILIE, YOU DON'T LIKE EIJI, DO YOU?
I GUESS...
...SHE MAKES ME UNCOMFORT-ABLE
WHEN I LOOK AT HER, I THINK OF KANAME-SAN
I DON'T REALLY LIKE CATS
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER I READ A MANGA WHERE AN ARMY OF CATS TAKE REVENGE ON HUMANITY, SO THEY MAKE ME UNEASY...
MY BROTHER IS SURPRISINGLY CHILDISH ABOUT THE WEIRDEST THINGS
WHY DO YOU ASK?
WELL, YOU'RE KINDA COLD TOWARDS HER

"I HEAR YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A HIGOSHI?"
"HIDER!"
I MEAN..
..THEY WERE BOTH JAHOUTSUKA!
"...PROTECTING YOUR STUPID KID?"
"THAT'S RIGHT. WHY SHOULD I RISK MY LIFE..."
"ARE YOU GOING TO NAG ME ABOUT THAT?"
"OH PLEASE"
"I WAS JUST CURIOUS"
"DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK I WANT SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO PROTECT MY DEAR SON?"
"IT'S YOUR LIFE. DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH IT"
I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST AN AGGRAVATING WOMAN, BUT...

...FOR SOME REASON I FELL FOR HER, HARD
BUT...
BUT...
TAMAKI?
YOU'RE GOING OUT? THAT'S ODD
HEY!
HIDERI ASKED ME TO GET HIM SOMETHING
WANT TO COME WITH ME?

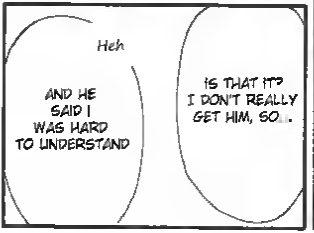
Got it? Don't screw up. I'll smack you if you bring me lights, you get it? What I'm for starters, you saying
I'm for at all
HE WAS VERY PERSUASIVE


YEAH
HIDERI'S "ERRAND" WAS...
...BUYING SOME CIGARETTES?

.....
WHO DOES HE THINK TAMAKI IS?
THE THING IS THAT I DON'T REALLY GO OUT UNLESS I NEED TO

.....

I THINK HEDERI IS...
...TRYING TO CHEEER ME UP IN HIS OWN WAY


Heh
AND HE SAID I WAS HARD TO UNDERSTAND
IS THAT IT? I DON'T REALLY GET HIM, SO...

I REALLY LIKE HIM
BUT EVEN SO..
oh!
HELLO!
小坂屋
TAMAKI...
LET'S GO BACK
SHE'S MY LITTLE SISTER
WE APPRECIATE YOUR REGULAR BUSINESS!
DO YOU NEED ANYTHING TODAY?
...NOT TODAY
WAS THERE ALWAYS A KID LIVING WITH YOU?
HUH?

...FEEL THE ACHE IN MY HEART ANYOMORE WHEN HE CALLS ME HIS LITTLE SISTER
I DON'T...
MY FEELINGS WILL DISSIPATE
...TO KNOW THAT HE WILL ALWAYS LOVE ASAH!
NOW HEARING THOSE WORDS MAKES ME HAPPY
HE'S THE PERSON I USED TO LOVE
...BUT THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY...
...AND HE'S STILL VETRY IMPORTANT TO ME...
SO IT'S OK
...THAT TAMAKI MIGHT...

...START THINKING I'M A BURDEN ONE DAY
UM...
HMM, I'M FEELING SICK...
IS TAMAKI-SAN HERE?
WE...WE'RE INDEBTED TO HIM AND WANTED TO SAY THANKS SINCE WE HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO DO SO
OH...
THEY WERE ATTACKED BY JAKI DURING THE RIOT THAT HAPPENED HERE ?!
DON'T KILL ME!!
WHAT ME!

SO IF IT IS POSSIBLE, WE'D LIKE TO SEE HIM
I SEE
JA, JAHOOT SUKAI !
!
?
WHY—?
PLEASE CALM DOWN...!
WHY IS IT HERE?!
DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA OF HOW MUCH THAT THING MADE US SUFFER?!
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

THIS IS MY FAULT
SLAP
YOU WILL BE THE ONLY ONE TO BLAME--
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THIS?!
PLEASE DON'T HURT TAMAKI..
NII -SAN!
STOP!!!
. BECAUSE OF ME
I'M . THE ONE THAT WANTS TO BE HERE
TAMAKI HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT
WHAT WILL YOU DO IF THAT THING STIRS UP TROUBLE AGAIN?

LET GO OF ME!
WAIT!
EIJI!
I WASN'T PLANNING ON STAYING HERE FOREVER...!!
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRIED...
...YOU WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE'S BEEN THROUGH
EIJI-SAN RAN AWAY!
WHOA
HEY, DID THAT LADY PISS TAMAKI OFF?
"A PART OF ME..."
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

MY BIGGEST FEAR IS THAT I AM TRULY ALONE
THE REALITY IS THAT KAGEHA IS GOING
"...WAS ALWAYS..."
"...DEPRESSED..."
HE'LL START THINKING...
...THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I DISAPPEARED AND FINALLY GET OUT OF HIS WAY
IF THINGS LIKE THAT KEEP HAPPENING..
TAMAKI WILL START THINKING OF ME AS A BURDEN
I'M SCARED...
OF BEING ALONE
EIJI?
OF BEING ALONE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE

You know, the horrible thing about Saga is that he really justified it. people disliked him because he was sure he was right, If he didn't deny Hira, he couldn't validate himself, so he threw away his compassion (laughs) But in the end, I think he was lonely too I think he suffered a lot. Everyone has to deal with their own sad things, right? (Everyone hates him so much that I feel maternal and protective of him (heh) He also deceived Roka but Well, that's ok. What she didn't know didn't hurt, and she was comforted by his words

EIJI...
IT'S JUST A MILD COLD
.....
IF SHE EATS AND TAKES HER MEDICINE...
...SHE SHOULD BE GOOD BY TOMORROW
LET'S GO. I WANT TO EAT DINNER, YOU KNOW?
AS IF SOMEONE WHO CAN'T TAKE CARE OF HERSELF COULD LIVE ALONE
THAT WAS A PRETTY NAIVE THOUGHT

"KAGEHA..."
"WHERE ARE YOU,KAGEHA...?
Sniff
Waaah!
"I'M FEELING SICK"
"KAGEHA..."
"IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR KAGEHA, HE'S NOT HERE. I SEND HIM ON AN ERRAND"
Sob
Nnn

"HYOU...!"
"SO...YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT GETTING SICK, HUH?"
"YOU'RE USELESS"
"I'M NOT FEELING WELL. I THINK I'M GETTING SICK."
"KAGEHA..."
"I'M SO SAD"
"PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE"
COME
"SOMEONE..."

IT'S 2 O'CLOCK ALREADY
I SLEPT A LOT
"I'M SO LONELY..."
.....
カシ
WHEN...
AN...ICEPACK?

HEY
DON'T UNCOVER YOUR SHOULDERS AND GET BACK TO SLEEP
YOU WERE CRYING IN YOUR SLEEP
.....
I'VE BEEN THINKING...
YOU KEEP THINGS TO YOURSELF TOO MUCH
IT SEEMS YOUR FEVER HAS GONE DOWN
I GUESS YOU DON'T NEED THE ICEPACK ANYMORE
IT WAS YOU...?
WHEN...?

LOOK, EVERYONE AT SOME POINT HAS FELT LIKE A BURDEN AND TRIED TO RUN AWAY
THAT'S JUST HUMAN NATURE, DON'T YOU THINK?
TAMAKI IS AWARE OF THIS, AND...
. HE'D FEEL BETTER IF YOU JUST RELAXED
"I THINK HIDERI IS..."
"...TRYING TO CHEER ME UP IN HIS OWN WAY"
UM..
OOPS
MY BAD. I GUESS I HURT YOUR FEELINGS, HUH?
GO BACK TO SLEEP, OK?
AS FOR THOSE LADIES TODAY, WE JUST POLITELY SEND THEM ON THEIR WAY
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT
AH...
EVERYTHING'S FINE. YOU JUST GET SOME REST

I'M GONNA STAY RIGHT HERE BESIDE YOU
"...BESIDE YOU"
"...HERE..."
EIJI?
IS SOMETHING WRONG? ARE YOU FEELING SICKER?

"I'M GONNA STAY RIGHT HERE BESIDE YOU."
MAYBE TO HIM THOSE WORDS WERE MEANINGLESS
BUT TO ME, THOSE WORDS BROUGHT COMFORT
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME ....
..THAT ANYONE HAD SAID THAT TO ME
NO... THAT'S NOT IT
EIJI, ARE YOU BETTER NOW?
AH!

YES
DO YOU KNOW WHERE HIDERI IS? I WANT TO LET HIM KNOW I'M FEELING BETTER, BUT...
ANJUE? I THINK HE'S AT THE MAIN TEMPLE BUILDING.
BUT WHY... ANJUE...
...AND NOT TAMAKI-SAN...?
HUH...?
IT'S NOT...
?
...WAS REALLY IN LOVE WITH KANAME-SAN. I WANTED TO MAKE HER MINE
I WAS SERIOUS ABOUT IT
...IS THAT SOMETHING YOU SHOULD BE TELLING HER SON?
I...

EVEN THOUGH THAT SEEMS KINDA...COLD
...YOU REMEMBER ASAHI'S WORDS? "THERE IS NOTHING IN THIS WORLD THAT DOESN'T CHANGE. EVEN FEELINGS, THEY CHANGE TOO."
I THINK THAT'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MY CASE
BUT THEN SHE DIED, AND SHE'S SLOWLY BECOMING THE PERSON I LOVED
SHE'LL ALWAYS BE IMPORTANT TO ME, BUT
A PERSON'S HEART MATURES
THAT IS NOT THE SAME AS HAVING A CHANGE OF HEART
PEOPLE CAN'T LIVE IN THEIR MEMORIES FOREVER

HIDERI..
WILL I...
...FIND SOMEONE NEW TO LOVE SOMEDAY...?
THEN YOU GO TELL HIM
HE'S BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU
.....
OH, DID YOUR FEVER BREAK ALREADY?
HAVE YOU TOLD TAMAKI YET?
NO, NOT YET
UM... SORRY ABOUT LAST NIGHT.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO START CRYING LIKE THAT

IT'S OK, I DON'T MIND
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT WOMEN ARE CUTER WHEN THEY LET THEMSELVES CRY SOMETIMES?
.....
"SOME LOVES EVENTUALLY COME TO AN END"
WHA...
.. WHAT A DUMB THING TO SAY!

BUT SOME LOVES...
BEGIN...
I'M THE ONE WHO'S ACTING WEIRD
WHY DID I WANT TO SEE HIDERI FIRST ANYWAY ?
I THOUGHT HE MADE ME UNCOMFORTABLE..
OH...!
EIJI
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE BETTER NOW
I'M SORRY I MADE YOU FEEL BAD YESTERDAY..
...BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN AWAY

I CAN FEEL IT AND MAYBE...
THAT ISN'T SUCH A BAD THING...
THANK YOU...
MY HEART IS CHANGING
...BUT...
YOUR HEART WILL NEVER CHANGE, WILL IT? YOU'LL LOVE ASAHI FOREVER, HUH?
.....
THEY ARE EXACTLY THE SAME
...AND HIRA

MAYBE TAMAKI WAS THE ONE...
...WHO WAITED HIM AT THE END OF ONE THOUSAND YEARS
...IS LIKE... TAMAKI'S REFLECTION
HIRA, WHO LOVED SUIGEKKA UNCONDITIONALLY....
.. AND GUIDE EACH OTHER'S PATH
THAT'S WHY THEY ARE DRAWN TO EACH OTHER...

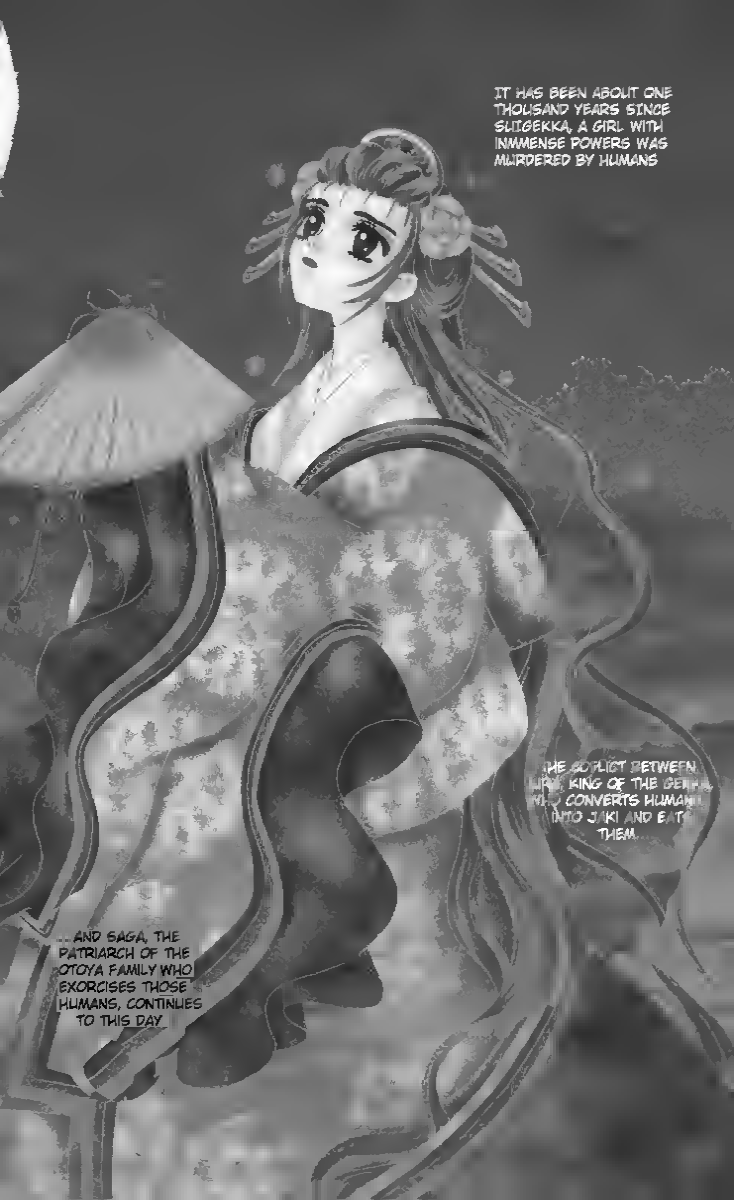
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DRAW,SO I JUST MADE A RANDOM CHARACTER

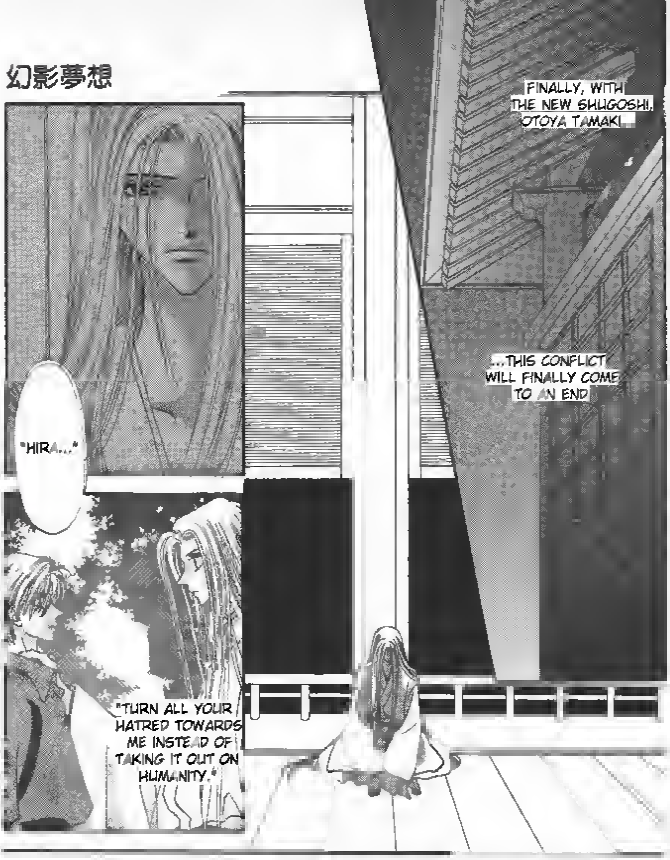
AS SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T CARE FOR HISTORY, JAPANESE OD OTHERWISE, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D DO A PERIOD PIECE, BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THE HEIAN PERIOD.IT SEEMS GIRLS ARE ALWAYS INTERESTED IN THAT PERIOD. I WONDER WHY?

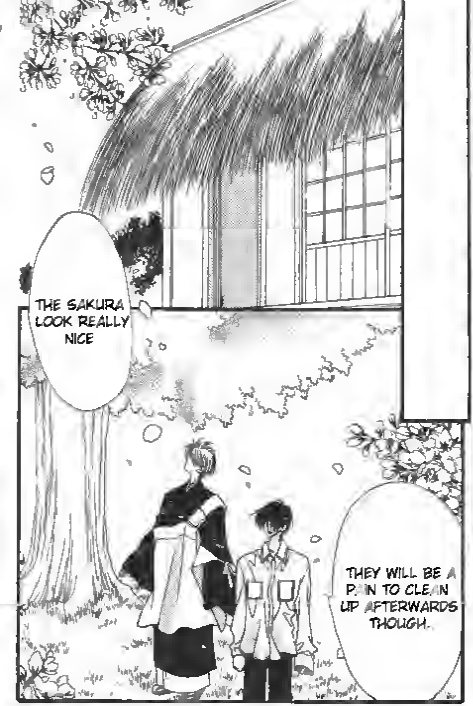
THE CLOTHES FROM THAT PERIOD WERE NICE, HUH? I LIKE THE DRESSES WHERE THE BUST IS BIG AND THE WAIST IS SMALL. THE RIBBONS ON THE LONG HAKAMA TROUSERS ARE CUTE TOO. THIS JUST TURNED INTO FASHION TALK, BUT THAT'S OK.

SAKURA...
. WERE MY MOM'S FAVORITE FLOWERS
"DO YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?"
"THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT HUMANS CAN LEAVE BEHIND..."
"DO YOU KNOW..."
幻影夢想
ひえいむそう

幻影夢想
げんえいむそう

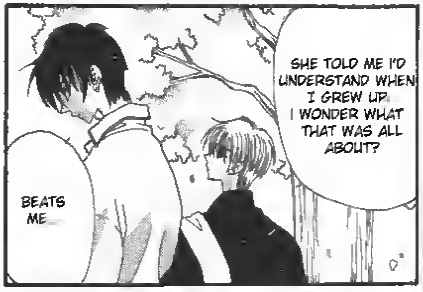

IT HAS BEEN ABOUT ONE THOUSAND YEARS SINCE SUIGEKKA, A GIRL WITH INMMENSE POWERS WAS MURDERED BY HUMANS
THE CONFLICT BETWEEN HIRU, KING OF THE GENKAI, CONVERTS HUMANS INTO JAKI AND EATS THEM.
...AND SAGA, THE PATRIARCH OF THE OTOYA FAMILY WHO EXORCISES THOSE HUMANS, CONTINUES TO THIS DAY

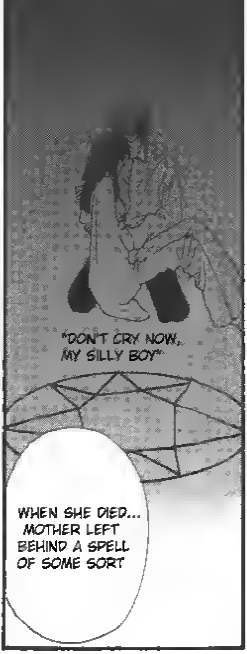

FINALLY, WITH THE NEW SHUGOSHI, OTOYA TAMAKI...
...THIS CONFLICT WILL FINALLY COME TO AN END
"HIRA..."
"TURN ALL YOUR HATRED TOWARDS ME INSTEAD OF TAKING IT OUT ON HUMANITY."


THE SAKURA LOOK REALLY NICE
THEY WILL BE A P..IN TO CLE..IN UP AFTERWARDS THOUGH..

"I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR RESPONSE."
"...HIRA"

"DO YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?"
THEY WERE HER FAVORITE FLOWER...
SAKURA REMIND YOU OF KANAME-SAN, RIGHT?


SHE TOLD ME I'D UNDERSTAND WHEN I GREW UP. I WONDER WHAT THAT WAS ALL ABOUT?
BEATS ME...


"DON'T CRY NOW, MY SILLY BOY"
WHEN SHE DIED... MOTHER LEFT BEHIND A SPELL OF SOME SORT

IT'S ALREADY BEEN 6 DAYS SINCE YOUR PROPOSAL
AND WE STILL HAVE NOT HEARD ANYTHING
HIRA HASN'T COME YET

HIRA
... CREATED THE GEKKA OUT OF HATRED FOR THE HUMANS WHO...

MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO AFTER HIM...?

... MURDERED HIS BELOVED SUIGEKKA

THAT CAUSED HIS DESPAIR...
BUT HE LOVED AND DREAMED ABOUT THE WORLD WHERE HUMANS LIVED
BUT HIS REACTION WAS ONLY BECAUSE HE REALLY LOVED HUMANITY AND WAS BETRAYED BY THEM
...OVER THE HUMANS THAT HAD KILLED THE WOMAN HE LOVED,
...AND WANTED TO BE WITH THEM.
THEY HATED HIM AND CALLED HIM A DEMON
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT HIM AS IF HE WERE THE ENEMY
HE WAS LOKCED IN A DARK ROOM FOR 15 YEARS
YOU ARE TOO KIND
AND THAT'S THE REASON WHY...
....HIRA MIGHT BE LAUGHING AT YOUR NAIVETÉ TAMAKI-SAN

HE HATES TAMAKI...
I DON'T MIND DYING...
...IF IT MEANS I CAN GO TO ASAHI...
I'M OK WITH THAT
IF YOU ATTACK HIRA...
...YOU MIGHT BE KILLED...!
WE CAN'T ASSUME THAT HIRA WILL JUST LET HIMSELF BE EXORCISED
SHE'S IN THE SEPULCHER OF THE HAKU, A PLACE THAT HOLDS THE JASHIN OF THE DEAD
SHE'S THERE WITH THE GUARDIAN, SHAHAKU
ASAHI...

TO SAVE ME, ASAHI BROKE THE LAWS OF THE SEPULCHER
BECAUSE OF HER MEDDLING, A FISSURE WAS CREATED ALLOWING JASHIN TO SEEP INTO THE WORLD, SO...
...IN ORDER TO CLOSE THAT FISSURE, ASAHI BECAME A HUMAN SACRIFICE....
...AND ALSO AS A MEANS TO SEAL HER--SHIGEKKA'S SOUL FOR ETERNITY....
...EVEN IF IT'S ONLY MY JASHIN
I...
SHE WILL REMAIN IN THE SEPULCHER FOREVER
BUT MAYBE MY SOUL...
...CAN REACH HER.
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE HER AGAIN
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW THAT I'M NO GOOD...
...IT'S STILL SO HARD...!

I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH HIM SINCE CHILDHOOD
ALL THIS TIME...
IT WAS THE SAME FOR ME
I WANTED TO BE 'IT' FOR KANAME-SAN, TOO
I WANTED TO BE 'IT' FOR HIM...!
BUT THAT'S IN THE PAST NOW
TAMAKI SAID...
...THAT'S YOUR HEART MATURING
BECAUSE YOU CAN'T LIVE IN YOUR MEMORIES FOREVER

...THAT THERE IS SOMETHING WAITING FOR US
ONE STEP AT A TIME...
...WE MOVE FORWARD BECAUSE WE BELIEVE
BUT TAMAKI-SAN ...
...IS LIKE HIRA.
HE WILL PROBABLY LOVE ONE WOMAN THE REST OF HIS LIFE
THAT JUST MEANS THAT YOU'RE ONLY JUST BEGINNING ON YOUR PATH
STOP THAT--!

.....
HE HAS FINALLY COME...

THE END...
...IS COMING
HIRA...

THE SHUGOSHI WILL DIE IF HE FIGHTS HIRA
IT SEEMS THAT THE FUTURE YOU SAW IN THAT VISION WILL NOT CHANGE AFTER ALL
PROBABLY NOT
I'M SORRY...
...TAMAKI-CHAN!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME
YOUR ASAHI CANNOT HELP YOU THIS TIME
THERE IS NOTHING...
...EITHER OF US CAN DO
TAMAKI-...
...CHAN..!

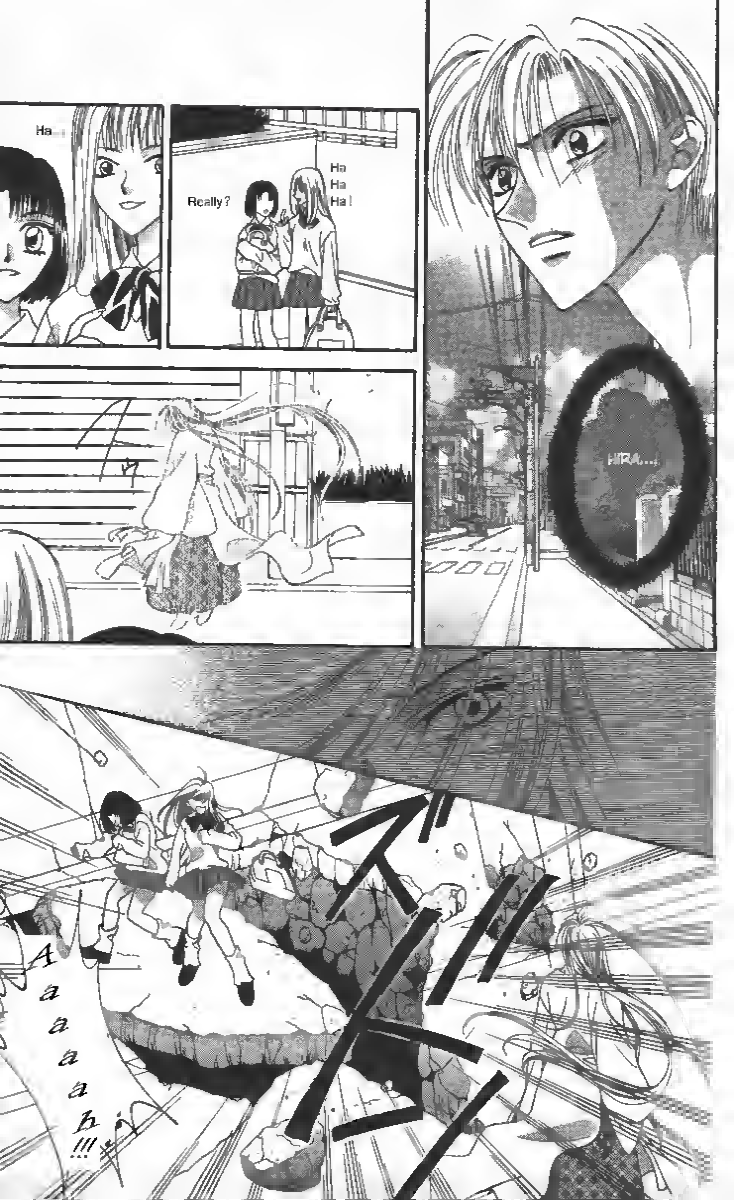
I HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING
NOW...
..LET US GET THIS OVER WITH
PLEASE...
..DON'T DIE..
LET US FINISH WHAT WAS STARTED A THOUSAND YEARS AGO..
..RIGHT HERE AND NOW
..OR I.. THE GEKKA..?!
WHICH ONE OF US WILL SURVIVE?
YOU, AN OTOYA..

PHANTOM DREAM WAS THE FIRST SERIES THAT I HAD PUBLISHED AND TAMAKI AND THE OTHERS ARE STILL WITH ME IN MY MEMORIES-- LIKE A SOUVENIR
MY LOVE...
...FOR HUMANITY...
...IS ALL IN THE PAST
!
ONCE HATRED IN EMBRACED...
...IT CANNOT BE ERASED FROM ONES HEART
YOU, THE SHUGOSHI AND PROTECTOR OF HUMANITY...
...AND YOUR BLOOD LINE, THE OTOYA'S WILL BE OBLITERATED TODAY
IN OL! NOW BUT MY FIRST SERIES WAS "PHANTOM DREAM!
YOU'VE TOLD ME THAT STORY A MILLION TIMES YOU OLD HAG!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, TAMAKI...?!
DON'T YOU?
YOU HATE ME
I...
LOOKS LIKE HE'S NOT GOING TO TAKE AND EXORCISM SITTING SOWN
.....
.. IN ORDER TO SAVE YOU
...WILL EXORCISE YOU
...FEELINGS LIKE THAT... DON'T GO AWAY THAT EASILY
I ASKED YOU TO HATE ME INSTEAD BECAUSE...

IT WOULD BE NICE .
...IF YOU WERE FINALLY FREED FROM IT ALL
AND THEN FINALLY ENTER THE PATH TO REINCARNATION
SAVE?
YOU... SAVE ME?
YOU MUST BE JOKING. YOU THINK I CAME HERE TODAY LOOKING FOR SALVATION?
IF YOU WANT TO EXORCISE ME, THEN YOU MUST COME AT ME WITH HATE
.. AND TELL ME YOU CAN NOT ..!
DO NOT STAND THERE...

EEK!
...IF YOU DON'T EXORCISE ME...
...MORE HUMANS WILL DIE BY MY HAND
YES!
SOUICHI...! FOLLOW HIM!
.....


Ha...
Really?
Ha
Ha
Ha!
HIRA...
ズキン
Aaaaah!!!

WHAT'S GOING ON?
No...!!!
...What the hell?!

...IS USING JARYOKU IN THE CITY?
HIRA...
WH-WHAT WAS UP...
...WITH THAT GUY...
IF YOU SAVE HIRA BY EXORCISING HIM...
...HOW DO YOU THINK THE PEOPLE THAT HAVE BEEN HURT OR WERE KILLED BY HIM FEEL?
REALLY...
HIRA CAN HATE ME TO HIS HEART'S CONTENT, BUT...
...TO TAKE IT OUT ON OTHERS...!
TAMAKI-SAN

HIRA MIGHT AS WELL KILL THEM ALL!
TAMAKI-SAN...
YOU ARE GOING ABOUT THIS ALL WRONG
SOUETSU-SAMA, KANAME-SAN...
.....
...EVEN ASAHI...!
IF YOU SYMPATHIZE WITH HIRA'S PLIGHT, TAMAKI-SAN
...THEN WHAT HAPPENS TO...
...ALL OF THEIR SUFFERING?!
DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT THAT AT ALL...?!

...TAMAKI
SAGA...
WHAT...?!
ALL OF THEIR...
...SUFFERING...
...THAT IS...
GREETINGS, HIGOSHI
I AM SAGA, WHO LIVES AS THE GOHOU
UH...
AH HUH.
SAGA...

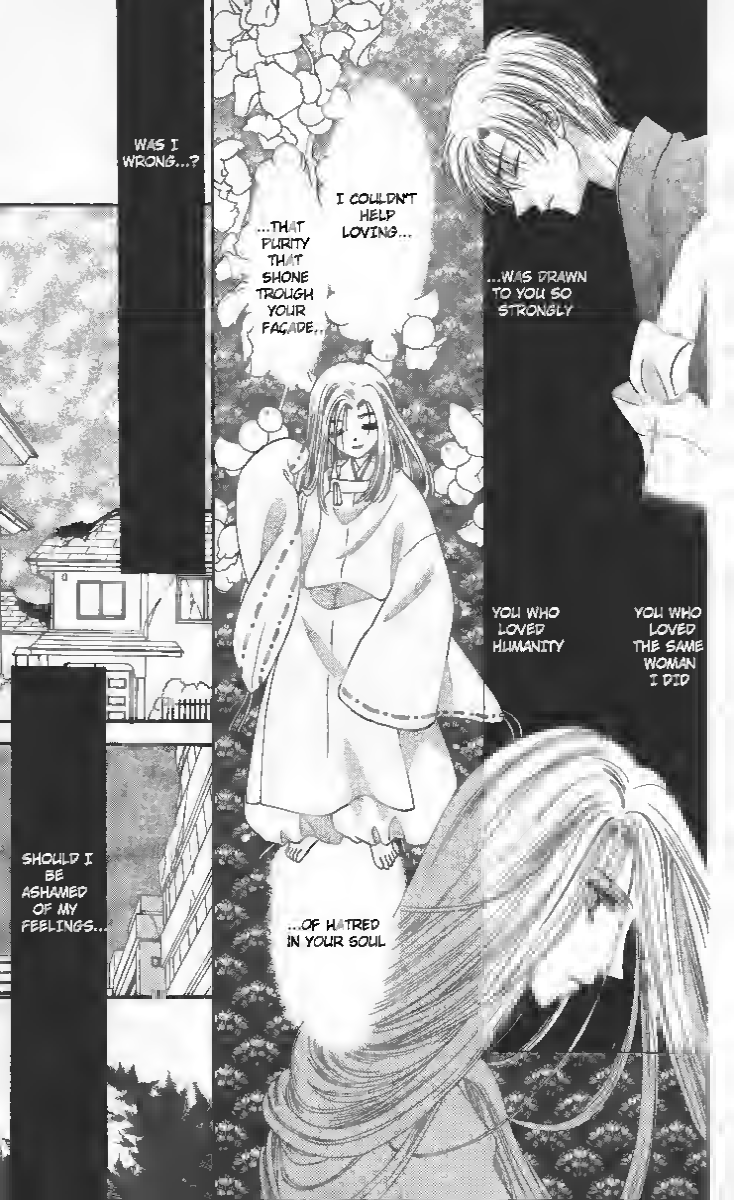
...WAS THE FIRST SHUGOSHI, AND HIRA'S YOUNGER BROTHER...
IT SEEMS TO ME LIKE YOU SHOULD ONLY FOCUS ON EXORCISING HIRA
HE HAS REALLY BECOME A DEMON NOW
TAMAKI... PROTECTION IS YOUR DUTY FIRST AND FOREMOST
YOUR SOLE EXISTANCE IS TO PROTECT HUMANS
YOU ARE THE SHUGOSHI, AFTER ALL
HIRA...
THE FACT THAT YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT HIM...
...IS ENOUGH

I FOUND HIRA...
LET'S GO
TAMAKI-SAN...
ミンミン
YOU TAKE CARE OF THINGS WHILE WERE GONE
ワン
OK...

I WAS ..
.....
.....
WELL...
...SEEMS LIKE SPARED NO EFFORT
HE CANNOT HAVE GONE TOO FAR
...DRAWN TO YOU.....
...HIRA
HEY...
I MEAN, THE WHITE HAIR AND RED EYES?
WHAT WAS UP WITH THAT GUY?

THAT WAS CRAZY! HE TRIED TO STAB US--!
WHAT'S THE POINT? WHAT ARE WE GOING TO TELL THEM?
SHOULD WE CALL THE POLICE?
...YOU THINK IT WAS HE WHO DID ALL THIS?
"TAMAKI... PROTECTION IS YOUR DUTY FIRST AND FOREMOST"
"YOU..."
"...DEFEND HUMANS"
"YOU ARE THE SHUGOSHI, AFTER ALL."
"...PROTECTION..."
"TAMAKI..."

EXORCISING HIM IN ORDER TO SAVE HIM...
!!
WHAT AGAIN?
CAN'T SOMEONE DO ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?!
LET'S GO
...WAS A NAIVE THOUGHT
I...


WAS I WRONG...?
SHOULD I BE ASHAMED OF MY FEELINGS...
...THAT PURITY THAT SHONE TROUGH YOUR FAÇADE...
I COULDN'T HELP LOVING...
...OF HATRED IN YOUR SOUL
...WAS DRAWN TO YOU SO STRONGLY
YOU WHO LOVED HUMANITY
YOU WHO LOVED THE SAME WOMAN I DID

BECAUSE...
...I'M THE SHUGOSHI?
TAMAKI
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU
IT WON'T BE ENOUGH TO SEAL HIRA, BUT...
...WE CAN AT LEAST KEEP THE JARYOKU FROM SPILLING OUT
WE'LL CREATE A PROTECTIVE BARRIER HERE

I JUST WANT...
...TO ASK YOU ONE THING
...RECONSIDERED YOUR POSITION, SHUGOSHI?
HAVE YOU...
THAT'S RIGHT. THERE ISN'T A SINGLE JAKI
HE'S ONLY DESTROYED BUILDINGS
HOW COME YOU HAVEN'T KILLED ANYONE...?
STILL...
DO YOU REALLY..
...HATE HUMANITY EVEN NOW...?!

YOU...
...CANNOT FEEL ANGER..
...UNLESS HUMAN BLOOD IS SPILLED?
CAN YOU NOT REMEMBER YOUR DUTY...
...UNLESS YOU SEE A MOUNTAIN OF CORPSES RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU?!
HOW DARE YOU CALL YOURSELF A SHUGOSHI?!
IF YOU ARE A SHUGOSHI....
...WHOSE MISSION IS TO PROTECT HUMANS, THEN
.....
...WHY...
..ARE YOU BOTHERING WITH HIM...?
YOU'RE RIGHT...

...DON'T BOTHER
I'M GOING TO EXORCISE...
...THE DEMON
...THAT IS THREATENING HUMANITY...!
ANYMORE
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT...
JUST...
..EXORCISE HIM
AS LONG AS YOU DO YOUR DUTY, THAT'S...

...THAT IS ENOUGH
REVERED ONE, I CALL UPON
AHH--!
!
YOU MUST BE GETTING SOFT...
...USING ONLY THE GOHOU TO EXORCISE ME

FIRST OF ALL YOU SHOULD TAKE THE DEMON SWORD AND...
...CUT ME INTO PIECES...!
SLASH ME TO RIBBONS WITH THIS SWORD...
...WHICH HAS TASTED SO MUCH BLOOD!
TRY TO GET IT AWAY FROM ME!
CURSE ME!

..CAN'T DO IT..
I....
...CAN'T DO IT
WHY...
CAN YOU NOT DO IT?
WHY...
..DO YOU CRY?

WHY...
.....
THE TRUTH IS I DON'R REALLY HATE HUMANITY...
...EVEN NOW
THE SHIGOSHI FORCED ME TO REALIZE ..
THAT I WAS ONLY DILUDING MYSELF
...NOW THAT I NO LONGER HAVE A REASON WHY
SO I CAN'T REALLY KILL YOU, SHIGOSHI...
...OR REALLY KILL HUMANS, EITHER...
...WHY DO YOU SPEAK OF SALVATION...?
IF YOU TRULY ARE THINKING OF ME, THEN...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I REGRET MY PAST ACTIONS, THE ONES I'VE KILLED WILL NOT RETURN
MUTSU AND ROKA ARE GONE TOO
WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO TO REALIZE THIS NOW...?!
HIR--
WHY NOW, OF ALL TIMES..?
THE ENORMITY OF MY SINS CANNOT BE FORGIVEN
I ONLY KNOW... THAT MERELY EXORCISING ME IS NOT ENOUGH TO WASH MY SINS AWAY
THAT IS WHY YOU MUST...
..CUT ME TO PIECES SO THAT THIS BODY WILL REMEMBER...
...WHAT I HAVE DONE PLEASE DO IT

.....
DON'T CRY
..BECAUSE YOU'RE A SHUGOSHI
YES
YOU KNOW MY SINS BEST
THAT'S WHY IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KILL ME
..THAT YOU REALLY WAITED FOR ME
.. YOU SAID YOU WOULD WAIT FOR ME
..ANY MORE TEARS FOR ME
DESPITE THE WAY I GREETED YOU
..TAMAKI
YOU CANNOT IMAGINE HOW HAPPY YOU MADE ME...
YOU WERE THE FIRST PERSON TO EVER SAY THAT TO ME

HIRA...!
I...
NOW, STRIKE
IF YOU DON'T, HUMANS WILL DIE
HIRA...
IF WE HAD MET UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES...
...MAYBE...
PLEASE STOP BURDENING TAMAKI ANY MORE
!
THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING SINCE I... ...BECAME THE GOHOU

SAGA...!
YOU...
HIRA...
...PLEASE ALLOW HIM TO EXORCISE YOU NOW
AND YOU ARE... FINE WITH THAT?
DO YOU NOT HATE ME?
HIRA...
I... ALWAYS ENVIED YOU
ALL ALONG, I...
GO IN PEACE. I DO NOT CARE FOR SUCH THINGS
ALL IS WELL NOW

SAGA....
TAMAKI..LET US EXORCISE HIM NOW
FINALLY..
REVERED ONE I CALL UPON THY TEACHINGS
I ASK THEE FOR THY ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING THIS DIFFICULT MATTER
.....
WITH MY WORDS I COMPEL THEE TO APPEAR..!
...I CAN BE RID OF THIS DEMON ...!

...I DO NOT CARE WHAT ELSE HAPPENS
HIRA'S EXISTANCE WAS ALWAYS AN EMBARRASSMENT TO ME
I NEVER SAW HIM AS MY OLDER BROTHER
ONCE THIS DEMON DISSAPEARS...
HIS WRETCHED APPEARANCE AND POWERS WERE AN ABOMINATION TO THE OTOYA!
IT WAS ONLY RIGHT THAT HE WAS LOCKED AWAY
WH-WHAT...
...ARE YOU SAYING...?

HIS SEEMING WORRY ABOUT HIRA...
...WAS A LIE?
BUT THEN...
HE WASN'T SAYING THAT BEFORE...!
IT SEEMED TO ME LIKE YOU WERE ATTACHED TO HIRA, SO..
...I DECIDED TO TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANTED TO HEAR
PERHAPS MY WORDS HAVE ANGERED YOU, AS YOU SEEM TO SYMPATHIZE WITH HIM, BUT...
...THE REALITY OF THINGS IS THAT HIRA IS A DEMON
A DEMON WHO PREYS ON HUMANS
HIRA IS THE ONE THAT IS WRONG!
SAGA!

"A DEMON! THE DEMON IS OUT...!"
"GAGA-SAMA GET AWAY FROM THAT THING! ITS SPIRIT WILL POCCESS YOU !"
"ANILE,YOU ARE HUMAN AS AM !"
"LET ME TAKE YOU AWAY FROM THIS PLACE..."
I REALLY DO NOT CARE IF YOU THOUGHT OF ME AS AN EMBARRASSMENT
BUT THEN . WHY DID YOU TELL SUIGEKKA ABOUT ME AND HAD ME RELEASED?
WHY DID YOU LET ME OUT THAT ONE TIME WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN?
YOU COULD...
I WANTED YOU TO FULLY UNDERSTAND...
...THE SCOPE OF YOUR INHUMANITY
I TOLD SUIGEKKA-SAMA OF YOU IN THE HOPES THAT SHE WOULD USE HER GREAT POWERS TO SUBDUE YOU
INSTEAD SHE LET YOU,THE DEMON, GO FREE
...HARDLY BE CONSIDERED HUMAN

...TO SAVE HERSELF AND WAS KILLED
I GUESS IT WAS SOMETHING THAT COULDN'T BE HELPED
AND WHAT'S MORE, SHE GAVE YOU THE SAME RESPOSIBILITY I HAD TO PROTECT HUMANS.
...AS IF YOUR DESPICABLE POWERS WERE THE SAME AS MINE
SUIGEKKA-SAMA MIGHT HAVE BEEN OMNIPOTENT, BUT AT THE CRITICAL MOMENT...
...SHE COULDN'T USE HER POWERS...

.. COULDN'T BE HELPED..!!
EVEN IF SUIGEKKA HERSELF WANTED TO DIE...
TO SAY IT LIKE THAT !
SAGA---!!
HIRA---! STOP! DON'T ATTACK HIM---!
TAMAKI !!!

DID YOU FORGET THAT..?
I AM HIS GOHOU. WE ARE CONNECTED IN MIND AND BODY
ANY INJURY I RECEIVE, TAMAKI RECEIVES IT TOO
,,SHI
ガラ
.....

AAAAAH!
SHUGOSHI
AAH...!
WHY ARE YOU DESPAIRING NOW, AFTER ALL THE PEOPLE YOU'VE KILLED...?
EVERYTHING IS FINE. IF YOU CAST A PROTECTIVE SPELL, YOU CAN HEAL QUICKLY

NOW, FINISH THE INCANTATION
YOU WANT TO SAVE HIM, DO YOU NOT?
YOU . WERE SMILING LIKE IT WAS NOTHING....
...ALL THE WHILE YOU WERE DECEIVING EVERYONE, RIGHT?

WHAT KIND OF SHUGOSHI ARE YOU...?
I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?
YOU FIGURED OUT HOW TO ACT AROUND PEOPLE SO THAT THEY WOULDN'T THINK BADLY OF YOU, AND...
...YOU CALCULTED EVERY SMILE...
YOU DIDN'T EVEN PROTECT YOUR OWN BROTHER.
...AND LAUGHING AT SOMEONE ELSES DISGRACE BECAUSE "IT COULD NOT BE HELPED"?
TH, T...
...MEAN WHILE IN YOUR HEART YOU WERE LOOKING DOWN ON EVERYONE
DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU THE DEMON?!
...IS SAGA'S TRUE NATURE

SAGA, HIRA... EVEN ME...
...HAVE BEEN WARPED LITTLE BY LITTLE
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE PERSON...
...WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO JUDGE WHO'S RIGHT OR WRONG
IT'S NOT THAT SAGA IS COMPLETELY WRONG, BUT...
...IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S COMPLETELY WRONG, EITHER!
I WOULD MUCH RATHER DIE THAN USE YOU TO EXORCISE HIRA..!
I'M NOT USING THE GOHOU...
I'M NOT DOING IT
AND IF THAT IS HOW THINGS ARE, THEN I...
I WILL....
...PROTECT HIRA FROM YOU!!!

NO...!
DON'T GET ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY NOW, BOY!
...I WILL PROTECT WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO ME!
SAGA?!
THE ONLY REASON I LOWERED MYSELF TO SURVIVING AS THE GOHOU....
...WAS SO THAT I COULD SEE THAT DEMON'S DEMISE!
AND YOU WANT TO TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME?!
I'LL NEVER USE HIM
NOT ONLY DO YOU NOT KNOW YOUR PLACE, BUT YOU DARE OFFER AN OPINION?!
I WON'T DO IT
YOU'RE SHAMELESS!
WITHOUT ME YOU'D BE A NOBODY!

AREN'T YOU THE ONE.....
....THE ONE THAT IS SHAMELESS?
WHO.....
WHO'S THERE ..?
WHO IS INSIDE ME?
WHO ARE YOU?!
YOU ARE NO LONGER NEEDED

FROM NOW ON..
I WILL BE TAMAKI'S GOHOU
.....
.....
MO

MOTHER...?

KANAME
GO... HOU?
THAT'S CORRECT
REALLY, THAT IDIOT SON OF MINE...
...IS SO MUCH TROUBLE
I HAVE BEEN BY YOUR SIDE...
EVER SINCE THAT DAY

SINCE THAT TIME
.....
MOTHER...!
YOU HAVE TO THANK ASAHI-CHAN FOR THIS
THAT DAY... JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO DIE...
ASAHI-CHAN CAME TO SEE ME AND TOLD ME SHE WAS JOINING HIRA
SHE TOLD ME THE WHOLE STORY

"I'LL MAKE YOU A STRONGER GOHOU THAN SAGA"
"JUST KEEP IT A SECRET, OK?"
"I CAN HELP YOU WITH THAT"
"THEN... CAN YOU USE YOUR POWER..."
"...SO THAT I CAN SOMEHOW HELP TAMAKI?"
I THINK SHE KNEW ALL ALONG
I HAVE BEEN SAVED BY AS...HI, HAVEN'T I?
ASAHI...
SUIGEKKA ALWAYS KNEW ABOUT SAGA'S TRUE NATURE.
.....
...ONCE AGAIN

IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIRA, THE GEKKA WOULD HAVE NEVER EXISTED, AND I WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN BORN
AND I WOULD HAVE NEVER MET SOUETSU-SAMA OR HAD YOU
I WOULD HAVE NEVER KNOWN SUCH HAPPINESS
That's a rhetorical question
YOU DON'T MIND THAT I'M YOUR GOHOU, DO YOU?
LET'S SAVE HIRA NOW, OK?
WELL, NOW...
IF YOU HATED HIM, THAT WOULD BE PROBLEMATIC
.....
I'M... SORRY I CAN'T HATE HIM
SO IT'S OK IF YOU DON'T HATE HIM
YOU ARE FREE TO FOLLOW YOUR HEART

...BY EVEN ONE PERSON...
.....!!
SO THIS IS...
...WHAT TAMAKI WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND UNTIL HE GREW UP
NOW...
...HERE WE GO
BEING...
...FORGIVEN...
KANAME-SAN IS AS INCREDIBLE AS EVER
...WOULD GIVE ME SO MUCH PEACE
THE GOHOU'S ULTIMATE FORM...

...IS A DRAGON!
HIRA...

...WILL I BE ABLE TO PUT EVERYONE'S HEARTS AT EASE?
HIRA...
...IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO BE FREE
I HAVE TO BE LOCKED IN HERE SO THAT I DON'T HURT ANYONE...
NO...!
...BECAUSE I'M A DEMON...!
DON'T OPEN THAT DOOR!

LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE
I CAN'T. NOBODY WANTS ME TO LEAVE THIS PLACE
THEY WILL GET ANGRY
...IT'S OK
AM I...
...NOT ENOUGH?
.....
NO
EVEN IF EVERYONE ELSE TURNS AGAINST YOU, I WILL REMAIN BY YOUR SIDE

YOU'RE ENOUGH TAMAKI...
YOU'RE ENOUGH...!
...TAMAKI...
EVEN WITHOUT SUIGEKKA AND THE REST...
...IT'S ENOUGH THAT YOU ARE WITH ME

"HUMANS NEED TO KNOW..."
"THEIR OWN LIMITATIONS..."
LET'S GO TO ASAH!...
..TOGETHER
"...HOW FOOLISH THEY CAN BE..."

"..HOW POWERLESS THRY CAN BE"
THEY CAN BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE NEEDS THEM
ONCE THEY KNOW THEMSELVES, THEY ARE ABLE TO CARE FOR SOMEONE ELSE FOR THE FIRST TIME
"THEY HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS"

THEY C N
BELIEVE...
NO
NO...!
NO!!!

YOU HAVE...
...BEEN PUTTING YOUR BODY THROUGH SO MUCH STRESS
NII-SAMA...?
IT HAS FINALLY REACHED ITS LIMIT
YOU DID A GOOD JOB....

……
DON'T...
...DIE
YOUR DEATH WON'T...
...MAKE...
...ANYONE HAPPY!

……
HIRA...
NO...!
TAMAKI...!
...DON'T TAKE HIM WITH YOU!

ASAHI IS... IN THE SEPULCHER, IGHT?
I WAS ONCE...
...HELD CAPTIVE BY HER THERE, SO I KNOW IT...
SOON OUR SOULS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO OUR HAKU AND KON, THEN...
...DEATH WILL REALLY COME
ヒュオオオオ
I'M BEGGING YOU...
...PLEASE DON'T TAKE HIM WITH YOU...!

IF YOU CAN HEAR ME AND DON'T MIND A HALF-DEAD BODY, THEN...
...I WANT TO EXCHANGE MYSELF FOR ASAHI!
GUARDIAN! SHAHAKU!
HIRA, WHAT ARE YOU--
...YOUR WISH SHALL BE GRANTED
HOWEVER, BY SACRIFICING YOURSELF, YOU GIVE UP YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO REINCARNATE AND YOU WILL REMAIN HERE FOR ETERNITY
!?

I UNDER-STAND
WAIT! IF ANYBODY SHOULD SACRIFICE THEMSELVES, IT SHOULD BE ME--!
TAMAKI
GO HOME. EVERYONE IS WAITING FOR YOU
DO YOU OBJECT...?
NOT IF YOU CAN RETURN HIM HERE AND NOW
HIRA...?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?
I CAN WIELD PROTECTIVE SPELLS TOO
I CAN HEAL FLESH THAT HAS BEEN STRUCK BY JARYOKU
HIR--
WHY...?
WHY WOULD YOU--?

THANK YOU
FOR
SAVING ME
YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE
ASAHI
!?

GO HOME...
...FOR TAMAKI'S SAKE
...ALLOW ME...
TO DO...
...ALL I CAN NOW.
I WOULD HAVE CHOSEN EARLIER
TO BECOME SOMEONE YOU COULD LOVE
...AS A LOVER, FRIEND OR PARENT...
IF WE HAD MET UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES...
...THEN I THINK...

...LIGHT...
BUT ALL I CAN DO NOW IS PRAY FOR YOUR HAPPINESS
SOMEONE WHO COULD PROTECT YOU
IT TOOK ME ONE THOUSAND YEARS TO MEET...
MY.
.....

!?
スッ…
……
……
……
TA
TAMAKI?!
HIRA…
TAMAKI-SA…?

IT WAS THAT KIND OF KISS
HIRA DID WHAT ..?
...SAVED US
ASAHI... AND I
I THINK HE KISSED ME, OR MAYBE HE DIDN'T...?
...I'M GLAD
I'M REALLY HAPPY RIGHT NOW...
BUT SERI-OUSLY...
...I'M COMPLETELY WIPED
HIDERI...
TAMAKI
IF ASAHI HAS BEEN SAVED, THEN...
...THAT MEANS SHE'S NO LONGER IN THE SEPULCHER, RIGHT?

ASAHI!
ASAHI...!!
"THIS IS GOODBYE"

"I WON'T BE COMING HOME ANYMORE"
"YOUR ASAHI HAS JOINED THE GEKKA."
SHE WAS REALLY IN LOVE WITH "HIRA."
"MORE THAN I LOVE YOU."
"HATE ME"
"GOODBYE"
"GOODBYE SHUGOSHI"
I HAD THOUGHT...
...THAT I'D NEVER SEE HER AGAIN
ASAHI!
ASAHI!?

I THOUGHT...
...THAT WE'D NEVER BE TOGETHER AGAIN
EEP!
"THE PERSON ASAHI LOVES HAS ALWAYS BEEN TAMAKI-CHAN, YOU KNOW?"
"IT WAS ALL MY-- SUIGEKKA'S--FAULT..."
...AGAIN
NEVER...
"SO THESE 'OMNIPOTENT' POWERS AND SOUL SHOULD BE SEALED AWAY FOREVER..."

ASAHI

I...
...TRIPPED...
.....
I....
.....
...CHAN...!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
...DUMMY

TAMAKI-CHAN...
TAMAKI-CHAN...!

TAMAKI-CHAN, I LOVE YOU...
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH..!
DON'T...
NEVER AGAIN
...EVER LEAVE ME AGAIN

...UNTIL DEATH DO US PART
I THINK I... UNDERSTAND NOW WHAT MY MOTHER MEANT BY...
...THERE BEING THINGS THAT HUMANS CAN LEAVE BEHIND
...YEAH
EVEN IF MY BODY ROTS...
...THE FEELING OF...
LET'S STAY TOGETHER FOREVER...
...LOVING SOMEONE...
...REMAINS

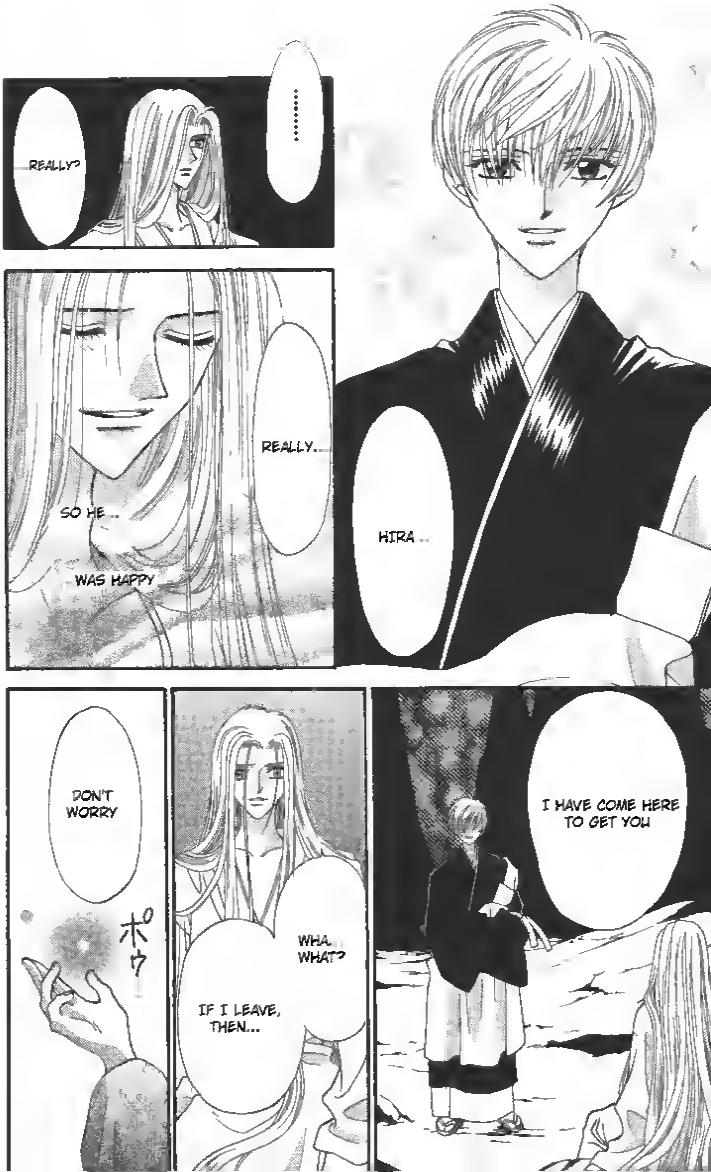
...WE COULD GO GET HIRA SOMEDAY
IT WOULD BE GOOD IF...
YEAH...!
EVERYONE....
EVEN HIRA
...LEAVES BEHIND THEIR FEELINGS

EVEN IF THEY'RE SEPARATED IN THE FLESH...
...THEIR SOULS WILL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER
SOMETIMES IT WILL LIFT YOU UP AND SAVE YOU...
...AND THEN TRAVEL WITH YOU...

...NOW...
...AND FOR ETERNITY

.....
HIRA...?

TAMAKI...?!
.....
...OTOYA YUZURI. I'M THE SHUGOSHI'S SUCCESSOR
...NO MY NAME IS YUZURI...
...THEIR GRANDCHILD
I AM...
AND ASAHI IS MY GRANDMOTHER
OTOYA TAMAKI IS MY GRANDFATHER


.....
REALLY?
REALLY...
SO HE...
WAS HAPPY
HIRA...
I HAVE COME HERE TO GET YOU
WHA, WHAT?
IF I LEAVE, THEN...
DON'T WORRY
ポウ

.. SHAHAKU WON'T BE LEFT ALONE, EITHER
THESE LITTLE ONES WILL TAKE YOUR PLACE
WITH THEM HERE...
IT... CANNOT BE...
OMNIPOTENCE ?
YES I WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT HAS INHERITED THESE POWERS, AND THEY FINALLY ALLOWED ME TO COME GET YOU
AND NOW..
...YOU WILL FINALLY BE FREE

WHENEVER I THINK OF YOU...
I HAVE ALWAYS...
...WANTED TO MEET YOU
...I GET TEARY-EYED
I WANTED TO MEET YOU SO BADLY THAT IT WAS UNBEARABLE
BUT IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT I FELT SO STRONGLY, DON'T YOU THINK?
AFTER ALL, MY BLOOD COMES FROM TAMAKI...
...AND ASAHI, AND SUIGEKKA... AND EVERYONE.
...EVERY-ONE.
...THINKS OF YOU WITH LOVE

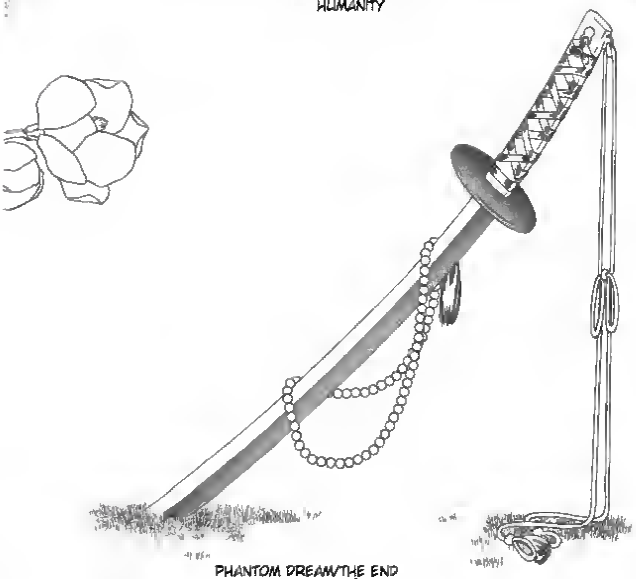
HIRA
THEY'RE ALL WAITING FOR YOU, SO
...LET'S GO HOME.
HIRA-SAMA
...HIRA
HIRA...!
...RA

PEOPLE PASS THROUGH LIFE, AND THEY ARE REBORN, BUT...
...PLEASE DON'T LET THEM LOSE THEIR ABILITY TO LOVE
TIME PASSES
THOUGH HATRED AND ANGER MAY SOMETIMES MAKE THEM FALTER
PLEASE DON'T LET THEM LOSE SIGHT OF THAT RAY OF LIGHT IN THEIR HEARTS

WITH THAT LOVE...
...PLEASE LET THEM LIGHT THE PATH OF THOSE WANDERING IN THE DARKNESS...
S...VE THEM AND GRANT THEM PEACE
THIS I PRAY

...BECAUSE THAT IS...

...MY WISH FOR HUMANITY



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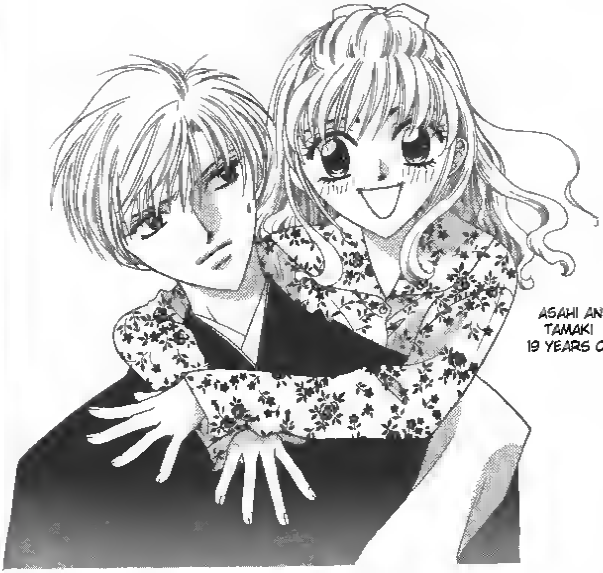

ASAHI AND
TAMAKI
19 YEARS OLD

TAMAKI RETURNED TO THE REBUILD TEMPLE AND OFFICIALLY BECAME THE MONSHU. TWO YEARS LATER HE WENT BACK TO SCHOOL AND MARRIED ASAHI, WHO ALSO GRADUATED. SHE WAS NEVER ABLE TO MEND THE RIFT WITH HER MOTHER, BUT IT SEEMS SHE HAD A VERY HAPPY MARRIAGE TO TAMAKI. THEY HAD ONE SON AND TWO DAUGHTERS, WHICH MEANT A LIVELY FAMILY! NO MATTER HOW OLD SHE GOT, SHE ALWAYS CALLED TAMAKI 'TAMAKI-CHAN', AND SHE WAS ALWAYS VIVACIOUS AND FULL OF LIFE. LIKEWISE,TAMAKI NEVER STOPPED TAKING LITTLE JABS AT HER.

HIDERI RETURNED HOME AND WENT BACK TO COLLEGE AND TOOK CHANRGE OF HIS BRANCH OF THE FAMILY AFTER HE GRADUATED COLLEGE. HE PROPOSED TO EIJI WHO WAS LIVING WITH TAMAKI AT THE TIME. THE FAMILIY OPPOSED THE MARRIAGE UNTIL IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT EIJI WAS PREGNANT. AFTER SOME HEATED ARGUMENT, HIDERI'S DETERMINATION AND TAMAKI'S SUPPORT WON THE DAY AND THEY WERE ALLOWED TO MARRY. THEY HAD A BABY GIRL. THEY WERE A VERY HAPPY COUIPLE, DESPITE HIDERI'S TROUBLE ADJUSTING TO EIJI'S LOVE OF CATS

MIGIRI 19 YEARS OLD

SHE STUDIES ABROAD TO GET AWAY FROM EVERYTHING. HER UNIQUE PERSONALITY WAS A GOOD FIT WITH THE CULTURE THERE, AND SHE STAYED THERE UNTIL SHE GRADUATED. AFTER RETURNING HOME, SHE STARTED WORKING AT A LARGE CORPORATION, WHERE SHE MET A MAN THAT LOVINGLY WOOED HER. THEY EVENTUALLY MARRIED AND LIVED OVERSEAS DUE TO WORK.

TOKIWA 17 YEARS OLD

AFTER GRADUATING FROM COLLEGE, HE TOOK OVER HIS BRANCH FAMILY. HE WANTED TO MARRY A WOMAN TWO YEARS HIS SENIOR, WHOM HE'D BEEN DATING SINCE HIGH SCHOOL. OF COURSE, HIS GRANDMOTHER OPPOSED IT, BUT EVENTAULLY GAVE WAY IN THE FACE OF THEIR PASSION AND THEY MARRIED. HE NEVER STOPPED RESPECTFULLY CALLING TAMAKI, "NII-SAN."

THE STORY OF THEIR MEETING....

...UNFOLDED A LITTLE WHILE AFTER THAT